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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
THE COMMON CAUSE
OF HUMANITY.

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CONTENTS

Notes and Comments
In Parliament
The Women's Enfranchisement Bill in the House of Lords
What Our Election Policy has Achieved
An Appeal for Funds
The Women's International Council at Rome
News from Abroad
Wind and Tide: By E. Rentoul Esler
Correspondence
A B C of Women's Suffrage
The Lords and the Step Forward
Civil Service Typists. By Clementina Black
The By-Elections
The West of England Suffrage Camp
Notes from Headquarters
News from the Societies

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To spend that shortness basely were too long."

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Notes and Comments.

Woman Suffrage in the Scottish Home Rule Bill.

The Scottish Liberal members have re-inserted in the Scottish Home Rule Bill a clause for the enfranchisement of women. This clause is based upon the occupiership qualification, following the lines of Mr. Dickinson's Bill. It will be remembered that the Welsh Home Rule Bill, introduced over a month ago by Mr. John, had a clause to give votes to women on the same terms as might be determined for men. Suffragists will follow the debate on the Scottish Bill with great interest. It is hardly anticipated that the Anti-suffragists who have always asserted their earnest desire to see the sphere for women in local government enlarged, will stultify themselves by offering any opposition to the women's clause.

The reason given for the omission of the Women's Suffrage clause was the desire that the second reading debate should be concentrated on the general principle of devolution, and not on any details of the Bill. We can assure the Scottish members that they would not have avoided the Women's Suffrage issue by leaving women out of the Bill. On the contrary, such a course would have had the exactly opposite effect. Prominent members on both sides of the House were prepared to make strong protests had the Women's Suffrage clause been omitted. We think the minority of the Scottish members will have reason to be grateful to the majority, whose statesmanship secured its re-insertion.

The By-Elections.

The National Union has been conducting a vigorous propaganda campaign in the Grimsby by-election. Crowded meetings, unanimous resolutions, over 1,000 signatures to "Friends of Women's Suffrage" cards—these are surely signs of the kind Mr. Asquith has asked for, that there is a real demand in the country for Women's Suffrage; or does he want more Midlothians and Leith Burghs before he will own himself convinced?

In N.E. Derbyshire, and possibly in Ipswich, Liberals will see women, who might have been supporting their own nominee, concentrating their energies on work for the candidate of the only party which has adopted Women's Suffrage as part of its official programme.

The decision of the Derbyshire miners to run a candidate of their own, who is entirely independent of the Liberal organisation, and stands on the full Labour programme, is an event of deep significance. It means the winning, for Labour and Women's Suffrage, of what has hitherto been an impregnable Liberal stronghold.

Minorities.

It is a curious commentary on the party system that, while a reactionary Anti-suffragist minority in the Liberal party and the Cabinet has succeeded in paralysing the professedly enlightened majority, a progressive minority of Suffragists in the Conservative party is so consolidating its forces that its existence bids fair to become a factor of considerable importance in the political situation in the near future.

"They Know Now."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer concluded his Budget speech with an eloquent peroration dealing with the miseries of the people. In the old days, he declared, "they thought *it* (that such things should be) was a dispensation of Providence, and they bowed to it. They are educated to-day, as their masters were fifty years ago, and they know that, far from its being a Divine decree, on the contrary, it is the mismanagement of man." What Mr. Lloyd George says of the "people" in a parliamentary sense is true of the women. They know now.

Unearned Incomes which are Earned.

Perhaps politicians are beginning to know that the women know. Mr. George proposes to give relief in the taxation of "small unearned incomes," such as many middle-class women depend upon for the subsistence of themselves and of their children, having earned them as truly as any Chancellor earns his. The struggling professional or business man may have done his share, but what of the wife? What of her years of making ends meet, and keeping up appearances, nursing the children through their childish illnesses, and cooking, and helping the little maid-of-all-work, and making the clothes, and "cutting and contriving," and all the time bearing and rearing the new generation? And the spinster? Brought up in outward comfort, but seeing her health and youth and efficiency pass away while she "keeps house" for elderly invalid parents, and picks her brother out of scrapes, and acts impromptu *in loco parentis* to all the children of all her married relations whenever occasion demands.

Potted Politics.

Lord Lamington does not like "women's opinions mixing with men's." We appreciate his point of view. When one of us has to give a judgment upon the proposition that "the country is going to the dogs," it is fatiguing to suspend this judgment until we have read up, not only *The Pall Mall* and *The Westminster*, but also *The Englishwoman* and The Common Cause, and all about what *The Dog Owners' Annual* and the literature of the Dumb Friends' League have to say as to whether good dogs and bad dogs go to the same place. Lord Lamington's plan is so simple: "Are we indebted to the profound political acumen of Edwin for the observation, or is it merely a silly hysterical outburst on the part of Angelina?" Messrs. Selfridge with their "ready-to-wear-costumes-to-suit-all-figures" system could hardly improve upon this.

Unhappy Plight of a Peer.

"I must get out of this. If I listen much longer, I shall be voting for the Bill!" Rumour tells us that the above was heard to fall from the lips of a peer of mature age as he hurried from the gilded chamber on the afternoon of May 6th. But the curious part of the affair is that his untimely departure took place while a distinguished lord of Anti-suffrage views was upon his feet—whose name, however, we withhold for the milk of human kindness' sake.

The Friendship of Sir Harry Johnston.

Sir Harry Johnston is, no doubt, according to his conscience, a good friend of Women's Suffrage; but, as a wise clergyman once said when someone pleaded his conscience as an excuse for an ill-judged action, "the conscience, my child, needs enlightenment." No doubt Sir Harry thinks the conscience of the Militant Suffragist needs enlightenment; so do we. We think the thing lies there in a nutshell. But the conscience of the distinguished traveller also needs enlightenment, or he could never have condescended to sign his name to "Militancy" in *The Westminster Gazette* of May 7th. "Although," he writes, "I am as convinced as anyone can be of the inherent justice of the woman's claims to possess the Parliamentary vote, of the benefit which will accrue by purifying politics, &c. . . . I am yet arriving most reluctantly at the conclusion drawn by Lord Curzon the other day: that we should cease subscribing, by money or effort, to Women's Suffrage propaganda until outrages on persons and property cease as advertisements of this cause." Does Sir Harry realise that even law-abiding Suffragists have red blood in their veins, and that they have just cause to resent such pusillanimous conclusions? They will continue to subscribe by money and effort to orderly Woman Suffrage propaganda, and bear the loss of Sir Harry's support with such charitable regard for his sense of justice as they may find possible. They do not propose to adopt the remedy he suggests, but we give it for what it is worth. "Is there no woman, no super-woman, of sufficient strength and influence to go out as a missionary among the militants, and . . . threaten to throttle or fustigate," &c., &c.

"The Common Cause" in the Deanery.

In "The Making of a Bigot," Miss Rose Macaulay tells us that on the library table of the Deanery of Welchester lies The Common Cause in company with *Punch*, the *Spectator*, the *Hibbert*, and *Country Life* (no *Church Times*, *Suffragette*, or *Blue Review* being found there). She also tells us that the wives of the superior clergy join the N.U.W.S.S., and her verdict upon all this evidence is that the N.U.W.S.S. is non-party, non-militant, and non-exciting. In the modest living-room of a middle-aged spinster member of the N.U. we have seen "The Making of a Bigot," so it must be non-party, which it certainly is; non-militant, which it may be; and non-exciting, which is absurd. It is not good to chop logic with so charming a young lady as Miss Macaulay probably is. Now motor-cars speed along so unfussily and so far, they are not quite the thrill they were when each had its own little man with his little red flag to call the attention of the unthinking to its moderate achievement and excellent intentions.

In Parliament.

Thursday, May 7th.

Budget Resolutions in Committee.

Capt. Pretyman (Chelmsford, U.) opened the debate, in a long speech, criticising some of the Budget proposals. He was apparently pained because members on the Government side of the House thought it legitimate and right that heavy taxation should fall on the few wealthy people, and that the control of expenditure by the masses of the people was justified because the tax filtered down to them :—

"If you tell a majority of the people at one time that it does not matter how much you spend because they are not going to pay, and then at the same time, or next day, tell them that they can control the expenditure, and that the class who are apparently to pay have nothing to say to it, that must tend to national extravagance."

Mr. Snowden (Blackburn, Lab.), in referring to this argument, reminded Capt. Pretyman that, up to about 1884, this was exactly the position which prevailed. Two-thirds of the national revenue was raised by indirect taxation, which was largely paid by the wage-earning classes, and yet at that time the great majority of people had no votes, and had no voice whatever in determining what the taxation of the country should be. While this condition ruled, said Mr. Snowden, "the predecessors of the honourable gentlemen opposite never made the slightest effort to redress it." Another party in the House is just as ready to take the money from the pockets of women and refuse them a share in the control of the expenditure. Mr. Snowden regretted that, under grants for public health there was not a more definite promise of a national grant for dealing with the question of maternity. He felt sure that there is "no expenditure that the Chancellor of the Exchequer could provide which would bring in future generations such a harvest of beneficial results as would accrue from securing the health of every woman during pregnancy and confinement."

Mr. Henry Terrell (Gloucester, U.) wished to associate himself with these remarks of Mr. Snowden, and agreed

"that there was nothing so important for the country than that children being born into the world should be born under healthy circumstances and brought up in healthy surroundings."

It is a matter for congratulation that there were two members in the House to speak on behalf of the unrepresented.

Friday, May 8th.

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday.

Mr. Timothy Davies (Louth, L.) moved a Bill to restrict the hours of sale of Intoxicating Liquors in Public Houses on Sunday.

Mr. Arthur Henderson (Barnard Castle, Lab.), in seconding the Bill, dwelt on the long hours of employment of men and women engaged in the sale of liquor in public houses. He estimated the number so employed at 300,000, including 23,000 barmaids. He called attention to the evil conditions and long hours worked by barmaids, quoting evidence supplied in an article in the *Women's Industrial News*, published by the Women's Industrial Council, in support of his statement.

Sir A. Griffith Boscawen (Dudley, U.) opposed the Bill, on the ground that it was an intolerable interference with the liberty of the general public (meaning, presumably, voters). He poured contempt upon the evidence in its favour as shown by petitions in its favour. The hon. member said he knew something about canvassing, and instanced the canvass or plebescite taken in Hull. It appeared that 19,407 householders had voted in its favour, and 5,223 against. That was represented as an enormous majority in Hull in favour of the Bill; but there are altogether 52,000 householders, 30,000 of whom never took the trouble to vote at all. "That shows that these plebescites and canvasses and the arguments adduced from them are really no evidence whatever of the feeling of the people." And not one member murmured the word "Referendum."

Mr. G. Roberts (Norwich, L.) opposed the Bill, because he believed that no new law could be effective unless it secured the acquiescence of the majority of the great body of the people who are to be affected by it, and he was of opinion that those to whom it applied actively resented it.

The Bill was defeated by a majority of 22.

In reply to a question, Mr. Asquith said he feared that it would not be possible to undertake legislation this session on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Divorce.

[*Owing to pressure on our space, we are holding over the account of the debates on Monday and Tuesday till next week.*]

The Women's Enfranchisement Bill in the House of Lords.

On May 6th, the House of Lords resumed the debate on the Second Reading of Lord Selborne's Women's Enfranchisement Bill. Lord Courtney of Penwith spoke with all the weight of his distinguished ability and wide experience, and endeavoured, it is believed with some considerable success, to impress upon the House the extent to which the movement had grown during the forty years since when he first spoke in the Commons in its support, and the sway and power which it now has in the popular mind. Referring to Lord Curzon's attempt to show that women had not adequately exercised their right in voting in a certain L.C.C. election, he stated that he did not know where Lord Curzon had got his figures, and pointed out that the whole significance of any such figures was their relation to similar figures for men voters, London being notoriously slack in this matter. In regard to women's alleged ignorance of Imperial matters, Lord Courtney could only recall two elections—those of 1880 and 1900—when Imperialism had been the turning-point in their appeal to the people. Summing up, he said there was ground for belief that something like the present Bill—something, perhaps, more advanced, would within a reasonable time find its way to the Statute Book. The opponents were fighting a lost cause.

Lord Willoughby de Broke, in a characteristically vigorous speech, declared that "the state of exasperation into which some women had been driven was not only bad for the race, but lowered the prestige of the country, and was a matter with which those responsible for good government ought to reckon." After commenting on the deplorable conduct of *The Times* in giving only three or four lines to the "able and telling speech" of the Bishop of London, and also to that of the Bishop of Oxford, Lord Willoughby concluded with a striking phrase of great significance, that he regarded the debate as "*a valuable reconnaissance.*"

Lord St. Aldwyn, Lord Crewe (with a tendency to sit on the fence), and Lord Charnwood followed in defence of "the lost cause," their most striking contributions being—on the part of Lord St. Aldwyn—that "women generally were far more impulsive, more actuated by sentiment than men, and that men were given to reason and judgment," and—on the part of Lord Crewe—"In announcing my intention to vote against the Bill, I wish to make it clear I am giving a purely party vote."

Lord Malmesbury spoke in support of the Bill, but Lord Lamington declared rather for a House of Assembly of women, for he "strongly objected to women's opinions being mixed up with those of men."

Lord Aberconway declared that the question was fully ripe, that until settled, it blocked all franchise reforms, and that public opinion would be perfectly satisfied if a reasonable measure of franchise for women were passed.

It was reserved for Lord Lytton to make the speech of the evening. In force, in eloquence, in the gift of carrying home conviction to the doubting, he surpassed himself, and Suffragists should not fail to secure *The Manchester Guardian* of May 7th, and make themselves acquainted with his line of argument, even though they lost the high privilege of listening to the spoken word.

Among the many telling points he made were that "the only object of our electoral system is to secure a representative House of Commons—representative of every class or body of opinion, and that the fact of no woman being a potential voter was quite inconsistent with any theory which it was possible to bring forward of representative government. From the moment they dealt with women only in various phases of legislation, it was impossible to argue that women did not need special representation.

Lord Lytton paid a noble tribute to those near to him, whom he admired and respected, and in whom he had seen the sacrifice of health, almost life itself. To him, therefore, the pity and tragedy of militancy came home, and, in spite of his hatred and detestation of the action of militant Suffragists, he saw in that action something more than mere folly and wickedness. After stating his opinion that it would be fatal to the interests of either political party for that party definitely to associate itself with a movement that was anti-democratic, Lord Lytton concluded by making anew a profession of the faith that we know to be in him—that he will never pause until he has seen accomplished that which will put an end to the deplorable waste now going on, of courage, devotion, heroism, self-sacrifice—the finest qualities human beings can possess.

DIVISION ON LORD SELBORNE'S BILL.

FOR THE BILL.

Canterbury, Archbishop.
Haldane, V. (L. Chancellor).
Morley of Blackburn, V. (L. President).

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Bedford.

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Beauchamp.
Brassey.
Brownlow.
Howe.
Huntingdon.
Lytton.
Malmesbury.
Nelson.
Portsmouth.
Russell.
Selborne.
Verulam.

VISCOUNTS.
Cross.
Hill.

BISHOPS.
Bangor.
Hereford.
Llandaff.
London.
St. Asaph.

BARONS.
Aberconway.
Basing.
Berwick.
Braye.
Carew.
Channing of Wellingborough.
Chaworth.
Courtney of Penwith
Cowdray.
Emmott.
Farrer.
Fingall (Fingall, E.).
Glantawe.
Glanusk.
Gwydir.
Hemphill.
Kilbracken.
Lawrence.
Lucas.
Lyveden.
Meldrum (Huntly, M.).
Monteagle (Sligo, M.).
Newlands.
Newton.
Nunburnholme.
O'Hagan.
Oriel (Massereene, V.)
Pontypridd.
Ranfurly (Ranfurly, E.).
Rayleigh.
Reading.
Rotherham.
Rowallan.
St. Davids.
Tenterden.
Willoughby de Broke.

AGAINST THE BILL.

Crewe, M. (L. Privy Seal).

DUKES.
Norfolk (E. Marshal).
Devonshire.
Northumberland

MARQUISES.
Bath.
Lansdowne.
Linlithgow.
Salisbury.
Zetland.

EARLS.
Amherst.
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Curzon of Kedleston.
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Durham.
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Westmeath.
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Allendale.
Canterbury.
Cobham.
Colville of Culross.
Falkland.
Goschen.
Halifax.
Hampden.
Hutchinson (Donoughmore, E.).
Iveagh.
Knollys.
Peel.
St. Aldwyn.

BARONS.
Sandhurst (L. Chamberlain).
Abinger.
Ampthill.
Arundell of Wardour.
Ashby St. Ledgers.
Ashton of Hyde.
Balfour.
Barrymore.
Biddulph.
Blythswood.
Brodrick (Midleton, V.).
Brougham and Vaux.
Charnwood.
Cheylesmore.
Colebrooke.
Digby.
Egerton.
Ellenborough.
Eversley.
Faber.
Haversham.
Heneage.
Hollenden.
Hylton.
Inchcape.
Inverclyde.
Joicey.
Kenry (Dunraven and Mount-Earl, E.).
Kilmarnock (Erroll, E.).
Kinnaird.
Kintore (Kintore, E.).
Lamington.
MacDonnell.
Mersey.
Montagu of Beaulieu.
Ormathwaite.
Parmoor.
Raglan.
Reay.
Revelstoke.
Rothschild.
Sackville.
St. Levan.
Sanderson.
Shute (Barrington, V.).
Silchester (Longford, E.).
Somerhill (Clanricarde, M.).
Somerton (Normanton, E.).
Stanley of Alderley (Sheffield, L.).
Stanmore.
Strachie.
Sudeley.
Swaythling.
Sydenham.
Templemore.
Teynham.
Weardale.
Welby.
Wolverton.
Zouche of Haryngworth.

What Our Election Policy has Achieved.

Appeal for Funds.

The press boycott, from which every branch of our work suffers, is especially relentless in the case of the Election Fighting Policy. When, however, we gather together and sum up as far as possible things unrecorded in the public press—the progress of Women's Suffrage during the past two years amongst the organised workers of the country, and the results of our intervention in elections—we feel that our hopes of this policy have been more than justified.

Its adoption was, of course, the natural outcome of the sacrifice of principle to supposed party interest on the part of Liberal and Irish Suffragists, when they combined to defeat the Conciliation Bill in March, 1912. The situation then created forced us to recognise that the day of the private Member's Bill was over, and that our only chance of enfranchisement was by means of a Government measure. The only way to persuade members that principle and party interest were not in conflict was to get these parties to adopt Women's Suffrage as part of their official programme. The Labour Party had already done this; therefore, support of Labour candidates meant the strengthening of a party whose machinery would be enlisted on the side of Women's Suffrage, instead of against it. Support of Labour candidates further afforded a means of putting pressure on the Liberal Government. Our task, then, was two-fold:—

(1) To strengthen the Labour Party, so that it might *be able* to put effective pressure on the Government.

(2) To strengthen Suffrage feeling in the Labour Party, so that it might *be willing* to put effective pressure.

To consider the second of these objects first: it will be remembered that when, in 1912, we first adopted this policy, our belief in the intentions of the Labour Party was based on the following resolution, which was passed at their annual conference at Birmingham that year by 919,000 votes to 686,000:—

"That this conference, in harmony with its previous decisions, is of the opinion that the enfranchisement of all adult men and women should be included in the Reform Bill to be introduced by the Government in the coming session of Parliament. It further requests the Labour Party in Parliament to make it clear that no Bill can be acceptable to the Labour and Socialist Movement which does not include women."

The ambiguity of the phrase "not acceptable" was recognised from the first, but we hoped that the strongest interpretation would be given to it, and in that hope we decided to support Labour candidates in three-cornered fights. We felt, however, that the 686,000 votes cast against it, including, as they did, the solid vote of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, was a serious force to be reckoned with in the Labour Party. Accordingly our Election Fighting Fund organisation set to work to do propaganda amongst the Trades Unions, and our Federations and Societies were encouraged to undertake similar work.

In fulfilment of our hopes, at the 1913 Conference the ambiguity of the 1912 resolution was resolutely swept away. It was the day after the Reform Bill fiasco, and the Conference had passed unanimously a resolution demanding that, after a free vote had been given in the House of Commons on a Woman's Suffrage Bill the Government should take that measure up, and carry it through all its stages. The following amendment was then moved, and amid scenes of wild enthusiasm, added to the resolution:—

"It further calls upon the Party in Parliament to oppose any Franchise Bill in which women are not included."

The voting on this amendment was 850,000 for and 437,000 against, the Miners' Federation of Great Britain remaining neutral, instead of opposing it as in 1912.

This was a great advance on the previous year. We continued to do propaganda work amongst the Unions, and it became evident that the popularity of Women's Suffrage was growing rapidly. The event more than justified our confidence, for in 1914 the Conference passed, with only two dissentients, a resolution in these terms:—

"This conference reaffirms its previous decisions on Women's Suffrage, and declares that the Government can only redeem the pledge it has given by bringing up a Bill to enfranchise both men and women, and requests the Parliamentary Labour Party, in view of the unsatisfactory statements of Members of the Cabinet that Women's Suffrage cannot be dealt with in this Parliament, to raise the question of their enfranchisement at the earliest opportunity next session."

This time the Miners' Federation voted as solidly for the resolution as they had voted against its weaker prototype in 1912.

Not only from the Labour Party conferences do these evidences of growing support come. The Trades Union Congress, which deals on the whole more with trade and less with political questions, has hitherto moved more slowly than such bodies as the I.L.P. and the Fabian Society. This Congress has, for many years past, carried a stereotyped electoral reform resolution, giving a list of some seven reforms desired, sixth amongst which is "the extension of the franchise to all adults male and female." In 1913, for the first time in the history of the Congress, a resolution was brought forward dealing especially with the women's aspect of the question, and carried with only five dissentients. The resolution, most significant in its strong protest against the Government's action, was as follows:—

"That this congress expresses its deep dissatisfaction with the Government's treatment of the franchise question, considering that the Plural Voting Bill is no substitute for the promised Reform Bill, and further this congress protests against the Prime Minister's failure to redeem his repeated pledges to women, and calls upon the Parliamentary Committee to press for the immediate enactment of a Government Reform Bill, which must include the enfranchisement of women."

Immensely encouraging, too, was the forward move made by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain when, on October 8th, they officially sent delegates from their annual conference at Scarborough, to a Women's Suffrage Demonstration organised by the National Union in the Londesborough Theatre. Mr. W. Brace, M.P., and Mr. A. Stanley, M.P., were the official delegates, but Mr. Robert Smillie (President of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain) and Mr. John Robertson (Vice-President of the Scottish Miners' Federation) also took part, and Mr. Smillie, in the course of a vigorous speech declared: "I think the women will have all the power the Miners' Federation can bring to bear upon Parliament to bring this measure of justice."

The advance of the miners is typical of what has been going on in the whole Trade Union movement, for we have our ever-growing list of Trade Unions which have passed Women's Suffrage resolutions. These are a few of the outward and visible signs of progress.

So much for the second of our objects. How we have succeeded in the first we shall hope to show in a future article.

For the present we wish to remind our supporters that we have important work in hand in all the chief industrial districts in the country, and we are already committed

(1) To strenuous work in opposition to certain Anti-suffragist Cabinet Ministers by supporting the Labour candidates in their constituencies.

(2) To do all we can to ensure the return of certain (sitting) Labour members who can be relied upon to put pressure on the Government when they are in a position to do so.

The present by-election in N.E. Derbyshire makes a further call upon our funds, but it also gives us a priceless opportunity for continuing the great work in which we are engaged, and of adding to the fine results which our policy has already achieved. We ask all who have contributed to our Election Fighting Fund in the past to contribute again at this critical moment, in order that we may have yet another triumph to record.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

At the morning session of the International Women's Congress, on May 8th, Mrs. Creighton announced, amid loud applause, that the Queen has consented to become patron of the English Council. The daily press has anxiously explained that this is not a Suffrage society, though it has passed a Women's Suffrage resolution by a large majority. It is not likely that her Majesty is so ill-informed as to be unaware that though practically all the national organisations of women have declared themselves in favour of Women's Suffrage, this fact has in no way caused them to deflect from the pursuit of the specific object of public utility for which each severally has been founded.

On Saturday last the Queen of Italy received members of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Women, headed by Lady Aberdeen, and also the Presidents of the national sections. She declared herself in sympathy with the woman's movement, and showed a wide knowledge of the various problems affecting women in different lands.

During the week the Council dealt with the question of the maltreatment of women during war, and it was unanimously resolved to request the next Hague Conference to make special international provisions for the protection of women. It was also resolved that each national section should submit to its Government a demand for the abolition of the registration of vice, the closing of all houses of ill-fame, and the stricter supervision of young women and girls, especially those travelling on board Transatlantic steamers.

On May 9th, Mrs. Creighton moved a resolution :—

"That the National Councils do all in their power to secure the protection of harmless birds in their several countries, and to secure legislation to prevent the destruction of beautiful birds for purposes of dress and adornment."

ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS' MIS-STATEMENTS AT SALISBURY.

At an Anti-suffrage meeting held in the Assembly Rooms at Salisbury, on May 5th, several mis-statements were made by Mrs. Gladstone Solomon of such importance that we reproduce a correction of them by Miss Helen Bagnall, of the Salisbury Society within the N.U.W.S.S., which appeared in the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* of May 9th :—

"Sir,—May I venture to call the attention of Anti-suffragists among your readers to one or two mis-statements which were made about matters of fact by the speakers who addressed their meeting this week?

"(1) Since the grant of the vote to women the birth-rate in the Australian Commonwealth has risen, not fallen, as Mrs. Gladstone Solomon thought and asserted in answer to a question. The Commonwealth enfranchised women in 1902. In 1911 the birth-rate—27·1 per thousand—was the highest for ten years; and in 1912 it was 28·65 per thousand.

"(2) The next statement was rather 'tall,' even for America. We were told that since women have had the vote in California they have brought in 4,000 Bills and passed 1,200 of them. Now, women were enfranchised there only in 1911, so they must, indeed, have been hard at work! To find the number of Bills produced per diem would be a pretty little exercise in arithmetic. And do the Californian women electors really bring in Bills? Even men electors over here cannot quite do that.

"(3) My third point does not touch a mis-statement so much as a setting aside of truth in relation to a great national problem. Mrs. Solomon was deploring, as we all do, the high infant death-rate in England, and she attributed it to the ignorance of mothers, as, again, we must all do to a great extent. But when asked whether the British Medical Association had not asserted that the waste of infant life is also, and very largely, due to the prevalence of vice, she contemptuously dismissed this opinion, and raised a laugh by saying that 'doctors are not always right,' and said that her view was that of Mr. Parr, of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Society, thus setting his lay opinion above that of the highest medical experts.

"If, sir, the opposition which the Woman's Movement has to encounter from Anti-suffragists is supported by such rash mis-statements of fact, and by shutting the eyes to unwelcome truth, it cannot be very formidable."

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

THE SUFFRAGE TRIUMPH IN FRANCE.

The hearts of Suffragists are warm towards France. Last week we gave the figures of *Le Journal* plebiscite so far as it was then known. In regard to the final result we quote from *Le Journal* of May 5th :—

"C'est fini! Le scrutin est clos. . . . Cela nous donne ce magnifique résultats :—

505,972 oui—114 non."

Our readers will be interested to learn that the copy of the paper from which we quote was sent to Mrs. Fawcett by M. L. d'Arc, a descendant of Joan of Arc's family, enclosed with a letter of acknowledgment to her for her monograph on Joan for which he had asked in the course of some previous correspondence. Mrs. Fawcett has kindly given us permission to reproduce this letter :—

Madame,—Je vous suis très reconnaissant de votre aimable envoi de la très intéressante vie de Jeanne d'Arc tirée de vos cinq fameuses femmes françaises. Vous avez eu une excellente idée de vulgariser, à l'aide de ce tirage à part, la grande figure de l'héroine si bien faite pour servir de modèle a toutes celles qui doivent lutter pour le triomphe de la patrie ou de leur idéal.

Puisque vous vous intéressiez a l'oeuvre du relèvement de la patrie par la femme, en voulant fort justement faire participer celle-ci a l'administration de la chose publique, je me permets de vous envoyer le résultat du referendum que vient d'organiser en France *Le Journal*. Mais probablement ceci vous est connu. . . .

Veuillez agréer, Madame, l'hommage de mon profound et dévoué respect, avec mes encouragements pour votre belle oeuvre et mes voeux ardents de succès.

L. d'Arc.

DENMARK.

The Danish situation which is at this moment the most immediately hopeful in Europe is summed up by Miss E. Hansen in *Jus Suffragii*. It will be remembered that the Reform Bill which includes Women's Suffrage has already passed through the Lower House, but was met by opposition in the Upper Chamber. Miss Hansen writes :—

"We expect the Bill to be signed on June 5th, but as it must be carried by two Parliaments, we shall have new elections, followed by a short Session, and in September women will probably vote for the first time."

Kvinden og Samfundet reports that a great meeting of Scandinavian women will be held at Copenhagen to examine the legal proposals in regard to family rights. This will take place upon June 10th and 11th, by which time Danish Suffragists hope they may have already obtained their enfranchisement. Miss Hansen also mentions an interesting proposal in connection with the amended Constitution.

"As it perhaps will be proposed to our new Constitution to give a representation to the different branches of industry, Dansk Kvindesamfunds has sent a petition to the President of the Joint Committee for the amendment of the Constitution demanding representation of Housekeeping which has such great economic significance for home and State."

SWEDEN.

As already reported, the Swedish elections have proved very unfavourable to the Suffrage cause. *Rostratt for Kvinnor*, however, points out that the importance of the change may easily be exaggerated.

"Although there is no likelihood of Women's Suffrage again finding a place in the King's speech, there is every probability that it will be brought forward as a party measure this Session, when the Bill can be carried by a combination of the entire 'Left'."

The hope is expressed that the concern shown by Suffragists for national defence will make some impression upon the Conservative party.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

States and territory with full equal Suffrage :—

Wyoming	1869	California	1911
Colorado	1893	Arizona	1912
Idaho	1896	Kansas	1912
Utah	1896	Oregan	1912
Washington	1910	Alaska	1913

In Illinois women have equal suffrage in the election of the President of the United States, of many elected officials, and of the members of municipal councils.

The following "campaign" States will vote by referendum on the question of Woman Suffrage in November, 1914 :—

North Dakota, South Dakota, Nevada, Montana, Nebraska.

Oklahoma is working hard, and may make the sixth.

In the following States, one legislature has voted for the question going to a referendum, and it must pass in a second session before it can be sent to the votes in 1915 :—

New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts; and, in 1916, Iowa.

WIND AND TIDE.

BY E. RENTOUL ESLER.

Author of "The Wardlaws," "The Trackless Way," "The Way they Loved at Grimpat," "A Maid of the Manse," &c.

SYNOPSIS.

Kate Burnsley is the daughter of a rough Irish farmer, but her mother had been brought up in a refined and cultured home, and had only married Burnsley because her father, the Rev. John Moffatt, was reduced to poverty. On her mother's death, Kate takes her place as mistress of the farm, and performs her duties well, but she is in thoroughly uncongenial surroundings. Everything in the house that stirs her imagination, that seems beautiful, has come to Kate from her mother's people. Kate worships her brother Neil, who is training as a solicitor, and resents the admiration of Dick Nelson, a handsome but rough young man, who is obliged to work on her father's farm, because his people had wasted away all their possessions while he was still a child. Biddy Doyle, who comes in to "lend a hand" in the kitchen, has a great admiration for Dick, and, deeply as she is devoted to Kate, rather resents her attitude towards the young man.

CHAPTER II.

WHEN Mrs. Burnsley died, and her daughter gathered the reins of government in her young hands, it became understood that when Biddy was wanted, and told to come to the farm, then she should be paid in money, but when she came of her own accord, because there was more room in the farm kitchen than at home, then her help was voluntary, and went unrecompensed.

Kate's ways were a revelation and never ceased to astonish Biddy, who never before had seen such good order, not even with the "ould Misthress." Kate had the mental habits that belong to good generalship—system and regularity were inborn in her. Contrary to the usages of many Irish homes, sections of work did not tumble over each other at the farm, fragments of the morning's meal did not continue to occupy the table till the dinner hour, nor did one utensil serve two quite dissimiiar purposes in succession. In Mrs. Doyle's kitchen, the pot that boiled the porridge or the potatoes would, subsequently, be filled with fragments and refuse of the family meal, and would be placed at the kitchen door, that the fowls might use it as a feeding trough. At Laganside, and especially under Kate's *régime*, each article had its own use and place. The fowls were fed in their own corner, and the calves never drank from the dairy milk pails.

At first Biddy used to stand watching, noting where Kate placed this and that, and how she did it. Later it became a pleasure to her to clear the way for Kate's rapid passage. It became Biddy's joyous duty to forestall Miss Kate in all that was roughest in her work. It was Biddy who cleaned the cooking utensils and placed them in orderly array beneath the kitchen dresser, Biddy who washed the flagged floor and preserved free from all stains the meal-white table. If Kate's hands retained their fine shape and quality, it was because Biddy offered her own knuckles for the inevitable abrasions. When Kate went to the fields in harvest time, whether to carry drink to the men, or merely to look on at the reaping, it was Biddy who took care that she wore her cotton sun-bonnet, with the "curtain" that shaded her white neck.

When Richard Nelson went to work side by side with Micky Doyle Biddy's heart almost broke with the pathos of it; not that she despised her father's occupation, but because she wanted something better and finer for her old playmate. Biddy often looked at the boundary ditch which separated Burnsley's farm from what had been James Nelson's, and recalling the latter in some of the more prosperous moments of his short life, wept as if her heart would break, that his son was now just one of the common people. Biddy respected herself, and did not think the conditions of her own life wretched by any means—for her—but she wanted something more refined, something easier for Richard Nelson, because she loved him.

That Nelson adored Kate was obvious to Biddy, but, as she did the same herself, though his prepossession saddened, it did not offend her.

"Sure, there niver was annybody in this wide wurruld like her," the faithful creature would say to herself admiringly, and would polish Kate's little shoes till they almost reflected her own good, rubicund face.

Kate was kind to Biddy, and without any of the condescension that informed her ways towards Nelson. She helped Biddy to choose her print blouses, yclept "bedgowns"; when these had been bought ready-made Kate altered them that they might fit more trimly over Biddy's liberal frame. The latter went barefoot over the farm, and it was Kate's dream as much as hers that there would come a time when stout, well-made shoes and trim stockings would be available for the maid as well as for the mistress. Kate regarded bare feet as quite natural—she saw them too frequently to think otherwise, but she deemed footgear more comfortable and superior somehow, and, liking Biddy, she aspired to this betterness for her one day.

Towards Nelson Kate had not a touch of sympathy. Even had he been still her social equal it is certain she would not have admired the taciturn young man at this period. Her life was hard enough and rough enough. She wanted no man's attentions. When she desired these it would be from someone very different from Richard Nelson.

When Kate thought of the future at all, it was always with her brother Neil by her side, and of indefinite, interesting things they would do together. Then she would be well-dressed, would live in a pretty house, and would have leisure for interesting experiences which, as yet, she could not define.

At present her leisure, what she had of it, was spent in remodelling her poor frocks, in readjusting the ribbons on her hats, in fashioning neat bows to be worn of an afternoon. Dress was to her what music is to others, not a vanity, but an art. Her simplest things she wore with an air, and neither rough gowns nor coarse shoes could conceal her young shapeliness. It was not to attract attention that she made herself her comeliest always; it was for the personal pleasure it gave her to see the roundness of her arms and the smallness of her waist.

Of love she understood nothing;—that time brought love to all women, happy or unhappy as the case might be, had not struck her. She never thought of herself as either wife or matron, but simply as Neil's sister, when Neil should have grown great.

Her father had hinted once that, Neil having a profession, the farm should be hers in time, but that had merely suggested to her how dreadful such a possession would be. Farm work, what was it but a constant producing that others might consume? Always ploughing, sowing, and reaping, yet with scarcely a vestige of last year's produce left at the end of the following year; always cooking, if you were a woman, that others might eat, while these others ate only that they might work again, and all that labour to end in growing middle-aged, in growing old, and dying without ever having been happy!

If she could not produce anything that, once made, would remain, at least, she wanted to have some good times, to enjoy herself.

The parson said all flesh was grass. Then what was the good of flesh, or, for the matter of that, what was the good of grass either? The cattle ate it, and that was the end of it; and the cattle were slaughtered, and that was the end of them; while man who grew the grass and killed the cattle, worked while he could work, and when he could do so no longer rested in the churchyard where the grass had its revenge, creeping over him, and saying, exultantly: "He is here." And after all there was not much to exult about, for he had not had a very good time either.

She remembered her grandfather and grandmother Burnsley, who had done just as her father did: contended with servants, driven hard bargains for daily work and farm necessaries, struggling desperately to effect small economies, sometimes succeeding and sometimes failing. When they died the parson said fine things about them in the farmhouse parlour; said her grandmother had been a mother in Israel—whatever that meant—and that her grandfather's hoar hairs had been a crown of glory.

Then they were buried, which ended the chapter of their history, but the next one went on just the same.

When her father died, there would be a similar eulogy over him, and then the farm and its responsibilities would devolve on her.

But she would escape them. She would sell the farm and use the price to do all the things that were worth doing, and that had hitherto been impossible. Neil and she together, and money available, then life would be worth living! She did not wish her father to die—certainly not. She knew she would be dreadfully sorry when that calamity befell her. Death always made people sorry, but in the case of the old, it was bound to happen, and then the kept-down people sometimes got a chance. Such thoughts only came into her mind when she was tired, and somehow they made her still more tired.

Only the evening before this undercurrent of discontent was definite as she crossed the yard. That day her unwelcome admirer had actually left a posy on the dairy window-sill for her—a rose and a blue forget-me-not, tied together with a band of ribbon-grass.

Of course, she never touched them, but left them to wither, only to be made sorry for them, poor things, when she saw their shrunken beauty in the evening light.

She had been helping with the evening's milking, and was carrying a heavy milk-pail towards the dairy, when the ubiquitous Nelson stepped across an adjacent fence and took her burden from her.

She relinquished it with a faint sigh of relief, and then asked, coldly: "Is your work over?"

"I came for a change of spade. I broke the one I was working with. I broke it on purpose, Kate, for the chance of a word with you."

"Then I hope my father will keep the price of it out of your pay at the week's end," she answered, viciously.

"That he will, don't you be afraid. You are mortal hard on me, Kate, and I—I love you so."

She burst into a little scornful laugh.

"You don't care what I do, or think," he went on, gloomily.

"No more I do, and when you know that, can't you leave off?"

"I thought I would like to tell you," he went on, wistfully. "There's my brother Ben, he is getting on, and he writes to say he can get me a job where, if I am clever, I could push ahead."

"You know you are very clever," the girl answered, derisively.

"Shall I go, Kate?"

He had carried the pail into the dairy, and was watching her as she poured its contents into the wide, flat cream dishes.

"How should I know? It might be a very good thing."

"I could only go if you will promise not to forget me."

She swung round and faced him disdainfully. "I think you mighty imputent," she said. "Who or what are you that I should remember you? I'll tell you what it is Richard Nelson, if you repeat this I'll get you dismissed."

"You have no heart," he answered, his face pale, his eyes wet with stinging tears. Kate tossed her head disdainfully.

"I have loved you since you could toddle. I will love you till I die," he went on.

"Will you go back to your work?" She pointed to the door with the air of an indignant queen, and, without another word, he went.

Kate waited till he was out of sight, then she hastened back to the cowhouse. Without doubt, every man and woman about the place was aware of Dick Nelson's assiduities, and was telling throughout the district that Richard Nelson was coortin' Kate Burnsley. The mere thought of the grinning jocularities that would greet such a statement enraged her. And there was no stopping him! Surely she had been rude enough, brutal enough, but it made no difference.

Nelson returned to his toil, the fresh spade under his arm, and tears in his hot eyes. Had Kate loved him, he could have done anything for her sake. He would have emigrated, would have discovered gold mines, would have attempted and done the impossible to be worthy of her. But she treated him like a dog. There were moments when she made him feel like a dog, a dog that wanted to bite and rend.

Why had he come back to Laganside after the intervening years in which he had grown from childhood to youth? In other places he would have fared better and have escaped these lacerations. But it was just these that made him feel he was alive. His young and impressionable years had been passed where the scents of the heather on these particular hills had filled his nostrils and their outlines had satisfied his eyes; idealised hours of play had been enjoyed when, her hand in his, and her short steps striving to keep pace with his strides, Kate Burnsley and he had raced down the lanes from school together. She had been a winsome child then. He remembered how she had done the honours of the farm, showing him all its attractions when his mother brought him there one day, for the purpose of negotiating a loan from Mr. Burnsley, as he surmised later; how she had shown him the young pigs and the pea-fowl, and had forced her toy rabbit on him as a gift when he went away. But that was before she had learned to regard a farm as a dull prison and a farm-boy as a clod.

(To be continued.)

Correspondence.

ANTI-SUFFRAGE FALLACIES.

Madam,—"Magna est veritas, et prævalebit"—so we are told, and try to believe it, but truth has a hard tussle for it sometimes, and there are sturdy falsehoods which seem to defy all attacks and to rise up again and again with perennial vigour, however often we may have thought to demolish them.

We need, therefore, not be too much surprised to find Lord Curzon, in the recent debate in the House of Lords, again reviving the good old argument that before women are given the vote they should "make more active use of the privileges they already enjoy," and giving as an illustration the fact that only "one" woman was returned at the last London County Council election. His exact words are: "In these municipal elections women have the right not only to vote, but also to stand. But their indifference to the discharge of their duties is only equalled by the indifference of the electors to their claims—(laughter)—because at the London County Council election only one woman was returned, and in the whole of the elections throughout the country the number was also insignificant. Therefore I submit that before my noble friend asks Parliament to give this new vote to women possessing the municipal franchise, it would be better for him to impress upon them the more active use of the privileges which they already enjoy."

The truth then is, that there could hardly be a more striking example of how useless the municipal vote may be to a woman, without the parliamentary vote at the back of it, than this failure of the women candidates at the London County Council elections. Twelve women came forward for election; why were only two (not "one," as Lord Curzon inaccurately says) successful? Because you cannot get on to the London County Council *unless your party backs you* in a constituency where our party *is in a majority*. Miss Adler and Miss Lawrence were the only two women candidates who stood under these conditions, and they were both elected. Why are the women candidates not more often supported in this way? Because the party organisations, who manage these affairs, are worked by men for the benefit of men. Why have women no influence with their party organisations? Because women, not having the parliamentary vote, are a negligible quantity, from a party point of view.

(I should like to say here, in parenthesis, that the Labour Party stands entirely outside these strictures, which only apply to the Progressives and Municipal Reformers, representing, of course, Liberals and Conservatives. The Labour Party at the L.C.C. election only ran seven official candidates altogether, three of whom were women; one of these, Miss Lawrence, was successful, and the other two were run in constituencies where at any rate they had a fair fighting chance.)

It only requires a glance at the figures of the election to see that (putting on one side the two Labour candidates and the one Independent) the remaining seven ladies, although supported (nominally) by their parties, were all standing in constituencies where they hadn't the ghost of a chance of being elected:—

MUNICIPAL REFORM CANDIDATES

Poplar	3,091 votes to 6,021

PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATES.

Chelsea	5,167 votes to 10,313
Dulwich	8,050 „ „ 12,075
E. Marylebone	2,111 „ „ 6,903
W. Marylebone	4,176 „ „ 7,952
Westminster	2,367 „ „ 6,538
Strand (woman alone)	793 „ „ 6,174

Compare these with the successful candidates:—

Hackney.—Miss Adler and colleague.
7,276 to 7,314 (Miss Adler [Pr.] was returned with a M.R. candidate.)

Poplar.—Miss Lawrence (Lab.) & Pr.
Lab. 2,960
Pr. 3,061

6,021 to 3,091 M.R.

Is it any wonder that only two women should have been elected, or that only twelve should have been found ready to come forward and spend their money, time and strength in these futile efforts to claim "the privileges they already enjoy"?

Lord Curzon's sneer concerning the indifference of the electors to the claims of the women candidates (which moved some of the noble lords to laughter) is equally put to shame by a consideration of the figures, which are to be found in "Whitaker." In every case but one these ladies stood with a man colleague of the same party. If the electors had had any animus against the woman they might have shown it by refusing to vote for her. There is no trace of such a feeling, the votes received by each candidate being practically equal.

Obviously the real crux of the situation lies in the fact that at these elections every woman who gets in is keeping a man out, and it seems incredible that men of the ability and experience of Lord Curzon should be so steeped in ignorance as to be unaware of facts that are common knowledge to anyone who has ever even dabbled in local electioneering. Yet, in the face of these plain facts, in order to clinch an Anti-suffragist argument, he, and many like him, are not ashamed to cast these unfounded and unworthy aspersions on women as a class, nor to sneer at those failures and misfortunes for which they are themselves largely responsible. Surely these are methods of controversy which tend to embitter women and lead directly to the dreaded sex-warfare.

Elinor Rendel.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

Madam,—Side by side with the cause of the enfranchisement of women a movement is advancing, quietly but steadily, among the enfranchised for the establishment of what is known as proportional representation. It is a movement in which advocates of Women's Suffrage should take more than a passing interest; indeed, there are many reasons why it should have our active support. For the object of "P.R.", as it is familarly called, is to make the franchise a much more effective instrument for giving expression to the wishes of voters. Many of the leaders of our cause have lent their names to this reform. Thirty years ago the late Professor Henry Fawcett wrote and spoke on its behalf; our honoured President has taken a prominent part in its advocacy; Catherine Helen Spence, who helped to win the Suffrage for the women of Australia, was an equally enthusiastic pioneer of "Effective Voting" as they term it in Australia.

What then is the complaint which is brought against the present system by those who have votes; and what claims has the P.R. movement for the support of us who have none? It is urged that the present system of electing one representative at a time in single member constituencies destroys in great measure the value of the franchise. For one thing it gives the elector no real choice in his selection of a representative. What, for instance, is a Liberal-Suffragist to do if he is a voter in Mr. Asquith's constituency? He can make a protest by voting for the Prime Minister's opponent—whose views on most public questions he detests—but this is not enabling him to choose a representative. Timid Liberal organisations, a little disconcerted by the action of militant Suffragists, are unwilling to endorse Suffragist candidates of pronounced views. Some of them are perhaps glad of an excuse for the withdrawal of their support; for the enfranchisement of women has become, what they did not really want, a serious issue in politics. Candidates of the type of Sir Victor Horsley, although their Liberal principles are unquestioned, are turned away. This restriction of choice hits our movement in a double way. Electors vote for the official party candidate lest the party lose the seat. The official candidate, even if favourable, hesitates to give whole-hearted pledges to carry our movement to victory, lest he lose official support.

"P.R." involves the abolition of single-member areas and the creation of constituencies returning several members each. This will give freedom to electors to vote for Suffrage candidates in every constituency; the Suffrage candidates within each party will be free to state their views in clear and unmistakable language; there will be candidates supporting our cause in every party and in every constituency.

The movement for "P.R." is worthy of our support upon broad general grounds of justice and freedom. But for us it has this additional merit; the conditions which it will set up should make for the accomplishment of our own aims. At present we are endeavoring to achieve success by tactics because the present system of election compels us to pursue this course; but the policy may leave us without the prize for which we have adopted it.

Under "P.R." those returned to support Women's Suffrage will not be at the mercy of the official caucus; they will hold their seats in their own right, and for these the threat of dissolution will lose its terrors. A vote in the Commons will represent conviction; not the fulfilment of a pledge given in the hope that there may be no need to redeem it. "P.R." will for a certainty secure among all parties the discussion of our aims upon their merits; and on their merits they must and will win.

F. D. H. C.

[NOTE.—This page is perforated and can therefore be torn out and given away separately.

A B C OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

TWO SIDES TO A DOOR.

"Men," said Mrs. Poyser in *Adam Bede*, ". . . . can see through a barn door, *they* can. Per'aps that's the reason they

SEE SO LITTLE O' THIS SIDE ON'T!"

Perhaps this is the reason why some people can see no reason for giving votes to women. The refusal of them is like a big door barring the way of greatly needed social reforms; and those who want to keep it shut are constantly staring through it into the future, and seeing beyond it "red ruin and the breaking up of laws," the collapse of the Empire, and the deterioration of the human race. But

PROPHECIES ARE NOT ARGUMENTS

as Suffragists were often told in the days when all the happy results of women's enfranchisement lay also in the uncertain future. Now-a-days many doors like that which bars our way have been opened, and we can all see that on the other side lie no such terrors as were feared, but on the contrary much good.

"What do you women really *expect* from Women's Suffrage?" we are asked. We answer that

WE EXPECT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE HAVE EXPERIENCED.

We point to the lands where women do vote, and to the laws passed by men and women together, which have had the effect of amending much of the injustice from which voteless women inevitably suffer, of bringing about better wages and better conditions of labour, of improving the national health and reducing infant mortality. We note the testimony of responsible men in every State which has adopted Women's Suffrage, all agreeing with the unanimous verdict of the Australian Senate that

THE REFORM HAS BROUGHT NOTHING BUT GOOD.

To this the Anti-suffragist replies that the experience of other States can give no guidance to a great Empire like ours, and that instead of being misled by what we can actually see we should believe in the disasters which *he* perceives clearly through the shut door. He will not allow that the facts which are brought to his unwilling notice afford any evidence that what is good for Australia, for instance, would be good for England.

Granting that the evidence is insufficient, still it all points the same way.

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE AT ALL TO THE CONTRARY.

And, since men are men and women women all the world over, our facts do show that a mixed electorate does not *necessarily* spell disaster. Should it prove disastrous in England the fault will not lie with our sex but with our individual selves. It will only show that English women are less fit to vote than all the women who are enfranchised already.

IT WILL REST WITH US TO DISPROVE THE EVIL PROPHECIES.

Because they are pre-occupied with the calamities of the future nearly all Anti-suffragists are blind to the ills that are actually rife in the present. They will not look; they will not listen or believe; they accuse us of inventing or at least exaggerating the evil in order to excuse our unreasonable desire for the vote. They implore us piteously to let well alone. To us who have realised the symptoms

EVEN A RISKY CURE IS BETTER THAN THE DISEASE.

We cannot disprove the prophecies; we can only take our stand on present facts. We cannot guarantee that no women voters will desert their homes; but we know that thousands of women now have no homes to leave. Women voters *may* neglect their children; how many children are suffering to-day because the State neglects them? Women voters *may* usurp men's professions; thousands now are constrained to oust men from work unfit for women. Women voters *may* have a low moral standard; what standard is set now by laws which punish in women what they condone in men?

WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO BEAR THESE ILLS WE HAVE

if there is even a chance that Women's Suffrage may help to mend them. It will not bring the millennium. It may not bring wholly unmixed good—what great change does?—but the awful consequences which loom so large in the eyes of its opponents are only possibilities; whereas the ills it may cure are here now, poisoning our national life and slowly producing that moral and physical deterioration which is dreaded by Suffragists and Anti-suffragists alike. Men and women have spent their lives trying to stem these evils by other means. They have accomplished much; but with the women's vote

THEY COULD HAVE DONE SO MUCH MORE.

We Suffragists do not profess to see through the closed door, but our faith in the good beyond it gives us courage to face the ugly facts on this side. Anti-suffragists have no faith in the future, so they are driven to idealise the present. It behoves us then, with all the clearness soberness and patience we can command, to help them to see more truly.

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Next Week (May 22nd), Miss H. D. COCKLE (Chair); Mrs. HARLEY (Exec. Com., N.U.W.S.S.), on "The Active Service League"; Mrs. ALYS RUSSELL, B.A.; Sir WILLIAM CHANCE, Bart.

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Notice.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by midday on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* The Common Cause.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

The Lords and the Step Forward.

At the conclusion of our report on the House of Lords' debate on Lord Selborne's Women's Suffrage Bill, which was still proceeding when we went to press last week, we observed that another step forward had been made. No one who was present in the House could doubt this. The serious and, for the most part, high tone maintained, the representative and responsible positions of those who supported the Bill, the acute anxiety evinced by Lord Curzon as mover of the rejection, and his dependence upon a bitter and insistent appeal to the prejudices created by militancy—all these things made for an atmosphere of intense reality.

Lord Curzon professed to suspect that Lord Selborne desired an "academic discussion." We suspect that "academic discussion" was not the only thing Lord Selborne was thinking about. Something practical was in his mind which he put to the proof when he made this apparently "academic" attempt to initiate franchise reform in the Lords. Everybody knew the Bill would be defeated, and it was; but everybody did not foresee that the circumstances of its defeat would be such as to put new heart of grace into the Suffragists. Lord Ampthill characterised as tactless the action of those who had compelled the Lords to discuss the matter at this time of political danger and anxiety. Tact is an elegant virtue, but it is only one of many weapons in the armoury of the spiritual warrior.

Lord Willoughby de Broke perceived the inwardness of the situation. "I am sorry," he said, in reference to Lord Ampthill, "that he is going to die in a different ditch from what I am," and, relapsing into the military phraseology with which the Ulster crisis has made us familiar, he declared the debate to be a valuable reconnaissance. Here we come to grips. We read daily in our newspapers of what a powerful minority, grimly determined, can do. We see that it can paralyse physical force itself. The whole circumstances of the Lords' debate have shown to an astonished world, and to the party machines, that there is some such power as this in the stronghold of Conservatism fighting for the women.

The Press have taken this Second Reading very seriously. *The Westminster Gazette*, while not advancing too far from cover ("militancy the obstacle") comes into the open in an important front page leader on May 7. Averring that—

> "step by step this movement has gained ground—often with the co-operation of opponents who have themselves given away the logical ground of opposition—until its eventual success on the political side is scarcely in doubt."

It sums up with a shrewd word of advice to the party men on the situation:—

> "We sympathise with the Liberal Suffragists who object to a class vote, but there must be something experimental in a first measure of enfranchisement, and all parties must be ready to make some sacrifice to get a step forward."

It is that step forward! While the Liberal hare sleeps, the hated "Tory" tortoise may take it, perhaps is taking it even now.

The figures in the division were 104 against and 60 for—a result which is a bitter pill to the Anti-suffragists who had felt themselves so safe.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

The canvassing returns in connection with the Bill give some thirty more to each side. A Suffragist strength of ninety in the Lords, with some of the strongest of the Conservative front rank men in it, is not negligible, and it is evidently the very sincere wish of the Liberal press that their party leaders should not so regard it. Not only *The Westminster*, but *The Daily News* and *The Chronicle*, as well as *The Manchester Guardian* and *The Nation*, are all in their degree at one in this. *The Nation* treats of the situation created by Lord Selborne's action in a leader of such great significance that we may be excused for quoting freely :—

"It is rare for a progressive measure to be defeated in the Lords by so slight a majority as 44, and such a division may well give cheer to a sharpening Tory appetite for a Suffrage Bill" . . . "The passage of Home Rule will leave the Liberal Party free to think of the future. What political question confronts it larger and more imminent than Woman's Suffrage?" . . . "Some women will at the coming General Election support Liberal candidates irrespective of their views on the suffrage. Others will not, and of this last section some will join the Labour Party outright, and others will confine their help to suffragists, and withhold it from 'Antis.' These tactics imply an immediate withdrawal of force and enthusiasm from working Liberalism, but they mean more than this. They signify that a new need has arisen in the State, and Liberalism being not at hand with the appropriate remedy, will lose permanently a mass of new recruits that should roll up automatically for its support. Thus far, therefore, Liberalism ceases to be a national force, and leaves its initiative and its formative work to its rival, the Labour Party, or even to its enemy, the Tory Party. So far as Conservativism is concerned we have no doubt at all that if a Tory Government comes in this year or next, it will pass a limited Suffrage Bill."

The Nation has a record that places it above suspicion of time-serving; it desires that the party in which it still believes, in honourable co-operation with Labour, should wrest from the Conservatives, before it is too late, the undying glory of loosing the political bondage of British women.

In the meanwhile, *The Times* has been publishing some striking articles on woman and her place in the State, and a *Morning Post* leader-writer recently devoted some space to the expression of his indignation at the disabilities imposed upon the girl Post-Office clerk because she has no vote. The face of the waters is troubled. The next—the decisive—step forward must be taken, and with any party able to form a Government lies the happy chance of taking it. But the choice will not always be there. In hesitation lies certain loss.

"Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide
In the strife 'twixt Truth and Falsehood for the good or evil side
Some great cause, God's new Messiah, offering each
the bloom or blight,
Parts the goats upon the left hand from the sheep upon the right,
And the choice goes by for ever, 'twixt that darkness and that light."

For the rest—we Suffragists observe and ponder and compare, and through it all we press unceasingly on, insistently demanding a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women, and we shall never forget, in our approaching triumph, the friends who stand by us now.

Civil Service Typists.

The women typists employed by the Civil Service of this country have, at last, had an opportunity, by means of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, of laying before the public the present conditions of their employment, the points upon which they are dissatisfied, and the directions in which they desire to see changes made. Unfortunately, the general public has never yet discovered how extremely interesting Blue Books really are, and the evidence given with so much clearness, moderation, and firmness by Miss Charlesworth, as a representative of the Civil Service Typists' Association, is not likely to be widely read. This is a great pity, since no impartial person can read her answers without being struck by the valuable education which the speaker has evidently received from her business experience, nor without realising how disadvantageous is the position of women employed in a great business where no woman has a say in the management. As a Suffrage tract Miss Charlesworth's evidence—in which there is not a hint of Suffrage—would be most valuable.

Women enter the Civil Service as typists between the ages of eighteen and thirty, by means of an examination, which the Association would like to see made a better test of general education. They are paid 20s. a week, rising by annual increments of 2s. to 26s. Promotion to a higher grade does not occur until they have served a full year at the 26s. maximum, although they may be required at an earlier time to pass a shorthand examination and perform all the duties of the upper grade. A few typists may receive an extra 2s. weekly as "examiners" if they are employed in checking the work done in their department. Typists do not pass automatically into the class of shorthand typists even after having passed the necessary shorthand examination. A Treasury minute of 1908 "prescribes that only half the staff, exclusive of superintendents, may be graded as shorthand typists. Unless there is, in the department in which the typist is serving, a vacancy in the higher grade, a typist cannot . . . enter that higher grade."

Shorthand typists, therefore, after serving seven years, may be kept indefinitely doing the work of shorthand typists without receiving the shorthand typists' rate of pay, until by marriage, death, retirement, or promotion, some shorthand typist leaves a place open, or until some increase in the number of employees allows for the appointment of another shorthand typist. On every woman thus kept waiting, the Treasury saves 2s. a year, since the shorthand typist receives 28s., rising to a maximum of 31s. A superintendent is paid 35s. a week, and can only receive more by becoming a chief superintendent. Many superintendents "on that scale are responsible superintendents in small departments," the number of workers varying according to the department. Where more than six are employed two of these may be superintendents on this scale; where more than ten are employed one of the two may be, but is not always, paid as a chief superintendent, beginning at 40s. and rising to a maximum of £130 per annum. Where more than twenty ordinary and shorthand typists are employed, a special allowance may be asked, and in three cases had been granted by the Treasury. These three chief superintendents were advanced from £104 to £110, rising by increments of £5 to the usual maximum of £130. Beyond the last-named figure no woman typist can apparently rise in the Civil Service.

Overtime seems to be not uncommon, and is paid for at the rate of 9d. per hour for typists, and 10d. per hour for shorthand typists; but only fifteen hours' overtime in a month is paid for, although in various departments more hours are sometimes worked. For instance, in May, 1913, when Miss Charlesworth gave her evidence, she stated that "in the London Telephone Service all shorthand typists, and typists and superintendents, are doing a great deal of overtime, but only fifteen hours in a month of four weeks is paid for. Superintendents are not paid at all for overtime." The leave allowed to typists and shorthand typists, whatever their length of service, is eighteen days a year; to superintendents, twenty-one; and to chief superintendents, twenty-eight.

Male typists and shorthand writers in the Civil Service would appear to be almost invariably considerably better paid, although certain superintendents of typists are set down at £91 only. The salaries for shorthand writers in various departments vary from £104 to £300, and the lowest figure for a typist (in the London Traffic Branch of the Board of Trade) is 27s. per week—one shilling above the maximum, at six years' service, of a woman typist. But men typists are not numerous in the Civil Service. Mr. Bernard Mallet, Registrar-General, being asked: "Why are the typists always women?" answered, "It seems that women are found to do the work much better. I do not think men are employed on typing work in public offices." "They do not do it so well?" "I do not think they do it so well."

It is not, therefore, because of superior efficiency that men typists—such of them as remain—are so much better paid than the women. Nor is the underpayment of the women due to the prevalence of a very low rate for skilled typists outside the Civil Service. In fact, 17 per cent. of the women who entered that Service as typists left in the course of thirteen years to get better paid work outside; and a table put in by Miss Charlesworth shows that, out of 372 outside cases collected, a quarter of the women who had been at work for over fifteen years were earning 54s. or more a week; half, 46s. or more; and three-quarters, 35s. or more; whereas of 379 cases of civil servants, all the fourteen who had served over fifteen and less than twenty years were earning 35s. or less, while there were as many as eleven out of eighteen who had served over twenty years earning 35s. or less. That the women typists cannot live on their pay during their first year or two in the Civil Service is indisputable, and those who are not, to use Miss Charlesworth's words, "bolstered up by relatives or friends," have to do overtime work. She quoted a case of one who, earning £1 a week in the telephone service, worked all last year in the House of Commons four evenings a week from 5.0 to 11.0." Others in like case spend their hours away from the office in sewing, washing, or household work, and, of necessity, bring down their food to the lowest possible measure. So hard and dull a life reacts upon health, and when the women's absence

from sickness is shown to be slightly higher than that of men, the fact is quoted as a reason for paying them at lower rates. Upon which Miss Charlesworth remarks, with characteristic moderation of statement: "It would seem to be an economic blunder to pay women so low a salary that they cannot maintain a proper standard of health to keep themselves continuously fit for their work."

The changes for which the women typists ask—as much in the interest of the public service as in their own—are mainly that women should be engaged as clerks, the standard of education, &c., being at the same time raised, that they should work at first only as typists and shorthand writers, and be gradually promoted to other clerical duties; and that arrangements should be made for facilitating the transference of typists from one department to another so as to prevent "stagnation in departments where only a few typists are employed," and to assist a more even distribution of promotion. They also, of course, desire an improvement in their, at present, extremely low rates of pay.

The Majority Report announces the conclusion that "amalgamation" of typists and clerks "is impossible," but that "promotion should be permissible to the clerical staff for special merit." The signatories to this report are of opinion that "education is . . . a secondary consideration in selecting typists," while "manipulative skill is an essential qualification." They do not seem to have realised either that a reasonable degree of "manipulative skill" can be acquired by almost any young person in six months, nor that a typist whose general education does not reach rather a high level is unfit for anything but the merest routine work. They recommend that the salary of typists shall rise to 32s. (instead of 26s.), and that of shorthand typists beginning at 26s. (instead of 28s.) shall rise to 42s. (instead of 31s.) All overtime should be paid for. With regard to superintendents, the Majority Report makes no recommendations. On these points the "Majority" Report expresses the conclusion of seven Commissioners out of nineteen. Nine others think that promotion of typists to clerkships should be generally possible, and not reserved merely for special merit. The Minority Report, signed by three members of the Commission, makes no specific recommendation as to women typists. These figures should be carefully remembered by all persons interested in the welfare of the women who are serving their country in the character of Civil Service typists. Especially should they be remembered when, if ever, the findings of the Commission come to be dealt with by the House of Commons.

Clementina Black.

HIAWATHA'S EXPEDITION.

All alone went Hiawatha
From the great Pits of the Midlands
To the meetings of the Council,
To the Town Hall down in Chelsea.
Very dull she was, and simple,
Very new to all the talking,
Much bewildered by the speeches,
By the questions asked and answered,
By the motions and amendments,
Points of policy and order.
"These are very clever women,"
Thought our Hiawatha slowly,
"I could never ask such questions,
Once, twice, and even four times,
Never have the skill to answer
When I didn't understand them;
I must once again go northwards,
Here's no place for such as I am."
But the steward at the doorway
Recommended Woman's Kingdom
As a place to pass the time in
Till the mid-night train went Northwards,
As a place where all the women
Who were wisest in the nation
Would reveal the best of all things,
Where to live and how to live there,
What to eat, and what to think of,
Where to go for education.
There our simple Hiawatha
Learned their ways and all their secrets,
How our Leader learned to lead us,
Why the others were so clever;
And the gloom upon her spirit
Soon gave way to beams of gladness,
Till, when later, she went homeward,
In the night-train to the Midlands,
Loud and long she sang a war-song:—

"We will build a little cottage
In the land of smoking pit-heaps,
Cheap it is, and very simple,
(Though the price excludes the ground-rent),
We shall furnish it for five pounds,
We will decorate the wall-space
In an hour with lightning sketches,
Photographs and Suffrage posters,
Then we'll shut the door and leave it,
For we'll live within the backyard
(Tho' the price excludes the ground-rent);
There we'll have a set of camp-beds
Made of gaspipes laid on trestles;
From the money won by cunning
From the Income Tax collecter,
We will buy us a conveyance
Swift in speed as twenty horses;
We will clothe ourselves in green stuff
Very fit for active service,
We will wear our under-garments
Hand embroidered and hand woven,
Very beautiful and simple,
And they'll button round us frontwards.
All of porridge shall our food be,
Oatmeal porridge, milk to drink, too,
And our children and our neighbours
Shall be all co-educated.
Then, indeed, our lives shall make us
Grow in wisdom and in courage
Till we're wise as is our Leader.
Then when night sinks o'er the pit-heaps
And the moon peeps round the chimney,
We will also dig our backyard,
And prepare our Suffrage speeches
For co-educated pit-folk"——

Thus departed Hiawatha
Singing songs of the Hereafter,
Vanished from before their faces
In the smoke that rolled around her,
The Pukwana of the Pit-heaps!

[We are glad to see that the seed sown at Woman's Kingdom is already springing up and even bearing flowers and fruit. We hope, however, that Hiawatha's "twenty horse conveyance" will be acquired by honest means!—Ed., C.C.]

C. C. C.

Members of the National Union are beginning to realise the importance of street selling, and sellers are coming forward well; but, of course, we shall need a great many more before we can have regular pitches all over London. So we urge members to send in their names to Miss Gosse, L.S.W.S., 58, Victoria Street, S.W., and join the C.C.C.

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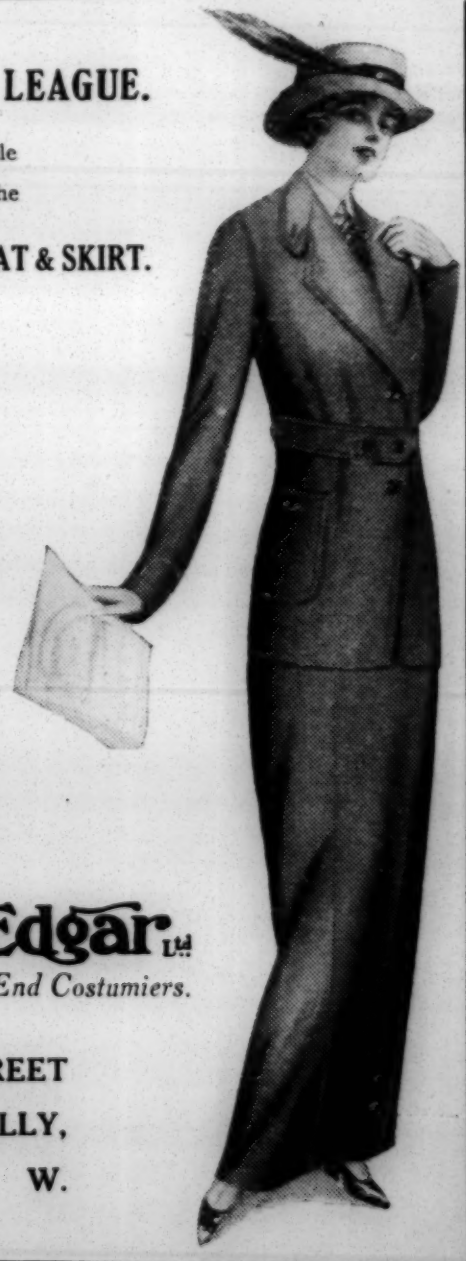

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N. E. DERBYSHIRE BY-ELECTION.

Candidates: **Mr. J. Martin,** *Labour.*
Mr. J. P. Houfton, *Liberal.*
Major Harland Bowden, *Unionist.*

Electorate 19,702. **Polling day May 20th.**

Organiser in Charge: Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A.

Committee Rooms: The Old Armoury, High Street, Staveley.

Speakers and Workers: Miss Andrew, Mrs. Chew, Miss Dring, Mrs. Earp, Miss Giles, Mrs. Renton, Miss Margaret Robertson, Miss Sheard.

The campaign here has hardly yet got under weigh, but speakers and workers are gathering up, and meetings, at the rate of about six a day, are being planned. The situation is by no means simple, but the issues at stake are great, and a mighty effort will be made by the Labour Party to get a strong and unequivocal declaration by the Derbyshire miners, by the return of Mr. Martin to the House of Commons, that the party to which they are, as trade unionists, affiliated, has their whole-hearted support in the political field. Labour feeling has never been tested in this constituency since Labour and Liberalism have never before been brought into conflict, and it is early days yet to say how the miners will respond to what is, to many of them, a new propaganda. But if Independent Labour politics have a certain novelty, it is nothing to the novelty of Women's Suffrage! But the receptions we have already met with encourage us to think that we shall win splendid and enduring support.

We are not at present holding joint meetings with the Labour Party. It is necessary first for us to do Suffrage propaganda and convert the electorate to our point of view. But when we have done this it should be easy to win their support for Mr. Martin. For not only does he represent the only party pledged to Women's Suffrage, but whilst the other candidates, in their election addresses, entirely ignore the Women's Suffrage question, Mr. Martin deals fully with it in the following paragraph :—

> "I would support a clean sweep of all the absurd and unjust anomalies in our electoral system. For the existing tangle of complicated franchise there should be substituted a simple franchise conferring the right upon a man as a man, and a woman as a woman, not for what they have, but for what they are. . . .
>
> "The Government must extend the franchise to the women of the country; and I should gladly support the efforts of the Labour Party in Parliament to secure for them at least equal treatment with men. Any decision of Parliament that fails to remove the existing sex disability, must be regarded as entirely unsatisfactory."

JAMES MARTIN,
Labour Candidate for N.E. Derbyshire.

Moreover, at the meeting of the Labour Party workers on Saturday, when Mr. Martin was formally adopted, he declared that he "had always been in favour of female Suffrage," and Mr. Peters, in announcing the offer of help which had come from the N.U.W.S.S., spoke of the previous contests in which he had worked with the Union, and declared that he would not now like to go into any contest without the help of the women.

As for the constituency, it is a somewhat scattered one—about sixteen or seventeen miles from end to end—with a large number of villages, half-a-dozen of which seem to be about equal in size and importance. Our plan of work is to hold hall meetings in these larger places, and to hold a great many open-air meetings, covering all the smaller villages. Each day we shall send out in the morning two teams of speakers, who will hold a couple of meetings each, at 11 and 4 o'clock, and return for the indoor meetings at night. Staveley is not the largest village, but it is the recognised centre of the constituency, and has the advantage of being on two railway lines. Here we and the Labour Party make our headquarters (the Liberals are in Chesterfield). It has been no easy job to find "quarters" at all, but now we are fixed up in the Old Armoury, the Recruiting Hall, the home of the Boy Scouts (who, by the way, were here till midnight on Saturday whitewashing the place for us), and the Labour Party are established in the Primitive Methodist Schoolroom and vestries.

The great pull which Mr. Martin will have over his opponents in this fight is his inside knowledge and experience of the miners' life. He made a most effective reply the other day to the Conservative candidate's claim that his two years' residence in the constituency qualified him to speak for the miners. "I," said Mr. Martin, "came to Chesterfield when I was a little lad only eight years old. My father had been out on strike sixteen weeks—victimised for his opinions. He was a bleacher in Nottingham. We had tramped the country for weeks, and at last he put mother and us four little lads in Basford Union, and it was when he got his first job in Staveley that he brought us out. Since that I've worked twenty years in the pit—trapping, trans-contracting, checkweighing. Who do you think understands your needs and can represent you best?"

It is reported that Mr. Houfton has not the support of the Liberal headquarters, who do not desire a three-cornered contest, and rumour says that he will have no prominent Liberals (save Sir Arthur Markham, who lives in the district) on his platform. It will be interesting to see whether events confirm this.

As usual, we want far more money than we have got. Our indoor meetings are entirely limited by the amount of money we have to spend on halls, and all our meetings depend upon motor-cars. Please help us by sending a special donation as soon as possible.

GRIMSBY.

Result: Mr. T. G. Tickler (U) ...	**8,471**
Mr. Alfred Bannister (L)	**8,193**
Unionist Majority	**278**
Unionist Majority in last Election	**698**

Grimsby is a Suffrage town, and propaganda work has been carried out under the most favourable circumstances, the way having been well prepared during the last two years by the local Society, mainly owing to the indefatigable efforts of Mrs. Ketching and Miss Stephenson, joint Hon. Secs.

Both candidates announced that they were in favour of Women's Suffrage, and both mentioned the fact in their speeches, with the result that the sale of THE COMMON CAUSE outside the meetings was most satisfactory, and the collecting boxes brought in a good harvest. Excellent work was done by Miss Ford and Mrs. Earp, and big meetings were held during the campaign in the Old Market Place at night, and at midday in Riley Square, where there was always an audience. The Organiser in charge, Miss Violet Harris, writes :—

"At one of the dinner-hour meetings, the Antis tried to disturb us, and their hired man distributed Anti-Suffrage literature, which the recipients destroyed under his nose. Our only retort to the attempts to break up our meetings was quietly to get "Friends of Women's Suffrage" cards signed by the listeners at the Anti-suffrage meetings. Our Friends' cards signed at the time of going to press number over 1,000. We have been extremely particular that none but genuine friends shall sign, but there has been no difficulty about this, as Grimsby is most friendly."

Miss Violet Harris reports that the Grimsby police are perhaps the most sympathetic she has yet met. The Chief Constable called at the Committee Room on her arrival, and volunteered the fact that he would help the suffragists in every way, and he has been as good as his word. Many tales of the keenness of listeners are told. One lady said she would gladly pay a barrel organ 10s. to stop, that she might hear Mrs. Earp the better.

Thanks are offered to all helpers in the campaign.

IPSWICH BY-ELECTION.

The Conservative candidate is Mr. F. G. C. Ganzoni. The Liberals are keeping the secret of their proposed candidate, but the name of Sir Edgar Vincent is now mentioned. The fight is expected to be unusually keen, and all sorts of political organisations are flooding the town. The Town Council has adopted an extraordinary attitude towards the non-militant Suffragists, as is shown in the letter quoted below from the N.U. organiser, Miss Waring.

To the Town Clerk, Ipswich.

Sir,—After due consideration of the terms offered to the N.U.W.S.S. by the Mayor and Corporation for the hire of the Public Hall, I have decided to refuse them. At the same time, I must protest against your treatment of the non-militant Women's Suffrage Union.

You say you take pledges from Party men to pay for damages done at their meetings; but you refuse our pledges, and ask for insurance policies, and suggest a reason which is insulting in the extreme, namely, that we may not be in a position to redeem our pledges.

These said insurance policies are to be taken out by the two Suffrage Societies concerned, not for the two days on which their meetings are to be held, but for the election fortnight. In other words, the women are to pay through their insurance for all damage done to your hall during that period, quite irrespective of any consideration as to whether men or women are responsible for it.

Further, insurance policies, for some obscure reason, are not enough. You ask for £50 deposit as well.

You tell us that police protection cannot be given us at indoor meetings, even if invited, and you imply that it is not the business of the police to be on the scenes till after damage is done, even though you have amply demonstrated that the possibility of damage is foreseen.

I can quote examples that prove that this is not the course of action taken in other towns. If it were, it is conceivable that the state of affairs that now obtains in Ipswich might be typical of the rest of the country, instead of being extremely unusual.

In view of your refusal of police protection, I wish to make it clear that I shall advise the N.U.W.S.S. in case of any damage done to us or to the premises that we hire during the election, to recover the cost from the Corporation under the Riot Damages Act of 1886.

May I quote the judgment given in a similar case on November 18th, 1913, in the County Court of Sussex at Hastings:—

"The law of England very properly imposes upon all citizens the duty of helping, when necessary, to keep the peace, or of paying damages to those who suffer loss by their neglect of this duty. . . . This right is as old as our Saxon forefathers, who placed upon the Hundred the liability which we place upon the ratepayers. . . . It means that protection against mob violence has always been accorded by the community to law-abiding citizens, even though they are women who hold advanced opinions; and rightly so, for history is eloquent to show that the heresy of to-day may become the accepted faith of the more enlightened generation of to-morrow."

THE WOMENS' MUNICIPAL PARTY.

The "At Home" in connection with the Women's Municipal Party given by its President, the Duchess of Marlborough, at Sunderland House, on May 12th, showed conclusively the emptiness of the statement that women take no interest in local government. The ball-room at Sunderland House was filled to the doors by women representing every Party and almost every conceivable interest. The Duchess took the chair and opened the meeting with a telling speech on the aims and programme of the Party: an organisation which has been formed (on an entirely "non-party" basis) to further the election of suitable women candidates to London local government bodies. Dr. Sophia Jevons (Education Committee, L.C.C.) gave an extremely able and informative address on the work of the L.C.C., and made what may be called the "dry bones of local government" live. Her speech was followed by a magnificent appeal from Mrs. Philip Snowden. The audience was so numerous that an overflow meeting was held.

All enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Mrs. G. F. Abbott, at the offices of the Party, 62, Oxford Street, W.

PARTY POLITICS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Some good Suffragists were among the deputation headed by Lord Courtney of Penwith, which waited upon Mr. Herbert Samuel on May 8th to ask for facilities for the Municipal Representation Bill, a Bill to enable municipalities to adopt a system of proportional representation in the election of municipal councils. Most women will readily endorse their plea that the introduction of party politics into municipal elections makes the selection of the fittest person exceedingly difficult. It may be added that when that fittest person is a woman of small means and little leisure, the difficulties are increased.

CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION.

The C. & U.W.F.A. entertained a large and distinguished company at their annual dinner and reception at the Hotel Cecil, May 12th. The programme consisted of a speech from Lord Henry Bentinck, M.P. (who seconded Mr. Dickinson's Bill in the House of Commons last year), a delightful Suffragist recitation by Miss Margaret Bussé, and a most enjoyable programme of music by Herr Henbert's orchestra.

Lord Henry Bentinck said Suffragists might congratulate themselves on the result of the W.S. debate in the House of Lords. Lord Willoughby de Broke had described it as a "reconnaissance." It had certainly revealed the weakness of the enemy and been a demonstration of reasonableness and enlightenment on one side, and prejudice and ignorance on the other.

Lord Henry said he believed that one result of enfranchising women would be that political questions would be judged more on their merits, and stripped of party cant and bias. Parliament was at present very busy with the interests of men-workers with votes; but it had scandalously neglected the interests of the voteless women-workers. Deputations from women to Ministers always received the same answer: We are willing enough but we haven't the time to attend to this matter. In conclusion he said:—

"We social reformers are apt to be too individual in our views—we neglect opportunities of combination and co-ordination with other reformers who are striving for the same good ends. The temperance reformer thinks that drink is the root of all evil; the housing reformer thinks that bad housing conditions are the cause of drink; the evangelist believes that it is only by appealing to the hearts of men that progress can come; the social reformer says it is no use preaching to a man with an empty stomach; the individualist distrusts legislation, the politician pins his faith to it. We may all be right, but we are all wrong as well, because we all neglect the chances of getting help from the women."

THE LADIES' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AND THE BISHOP OF LONDON'S BILL.

The annual public meeting of the Ladies' National Association for the Abolition of the State Regulation of Vice, and for the Promotion of Social Purity, will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Friday, May 22nd, at 5 p.m. The public are invited to come and support the Bishop of London's Bill for Raising the "Age of Consent."

WOMEN AND CHURCH COUNCILS.

At a recent vestry meeting at St. Luke's, West Holloway, the following resolution was carried, without a dissentient:—

"That this vestry is of opinion that the qualification of churchwomen for voting in the Councils of the Church should be identical with those of churchmen, and the ratepaying limitation abolished without delay. That the representatives of this parish on the Ruri-Decanal Conference be desired to convey to that body a request to find a method of carrying out this reform through their representatives on the Diocesan Conference."

MRS. FAWCETT'S HOLIDAY.

Mrs. Fawcett informs us that she has gone into the country, ten miles from a railway station, for a month's complete rest, and that she will regard it as kind of Suffragists not to write to her.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY AT EXHIBITION OFFICES.

A variety of articles were left at the office of Woman's Kingdom. Please apply to Miss Collum, at the N.U. headquarters.

Federation of Civil Service Women Clerks.
National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society.

IMPORTANT MEETING, HOLBORN HALL, GRAY'S INN ROAD.

FRIDAY, MAY 22nd, at 7.30 p.m.

To Consider the Report of Royal Commission on Civil Service and to protest against certain of its findings with regard to Women.

Speakers:

Miss CALE, Miss CHARLESWORTH (*Civil Service Witnesses before the Commission*), **Miss ESTHER ROPER, B.A.**

Chairman: Miss GORE BOOTH.

ADMISSION BY TICKET. (A few for the public at 2s. 6d.)
Apply at once, Miss ROPER, 33, Fitzroy Square, W.

MISS F. H. GARLICK, R.H.S. (1st Class)
Trained Swanley College. Demonstrator 1910-11.
Undertakes Care of Gardens and Designing. Arrangement of Herbaceous Borders. Pruning of Roses and all Flowering Shrubs a speciality. Lessons given.
1, Fitzroy Road, Regent's Park, N.W.

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THE WEST OF ENGLAND CAMP FOR WOMEN.

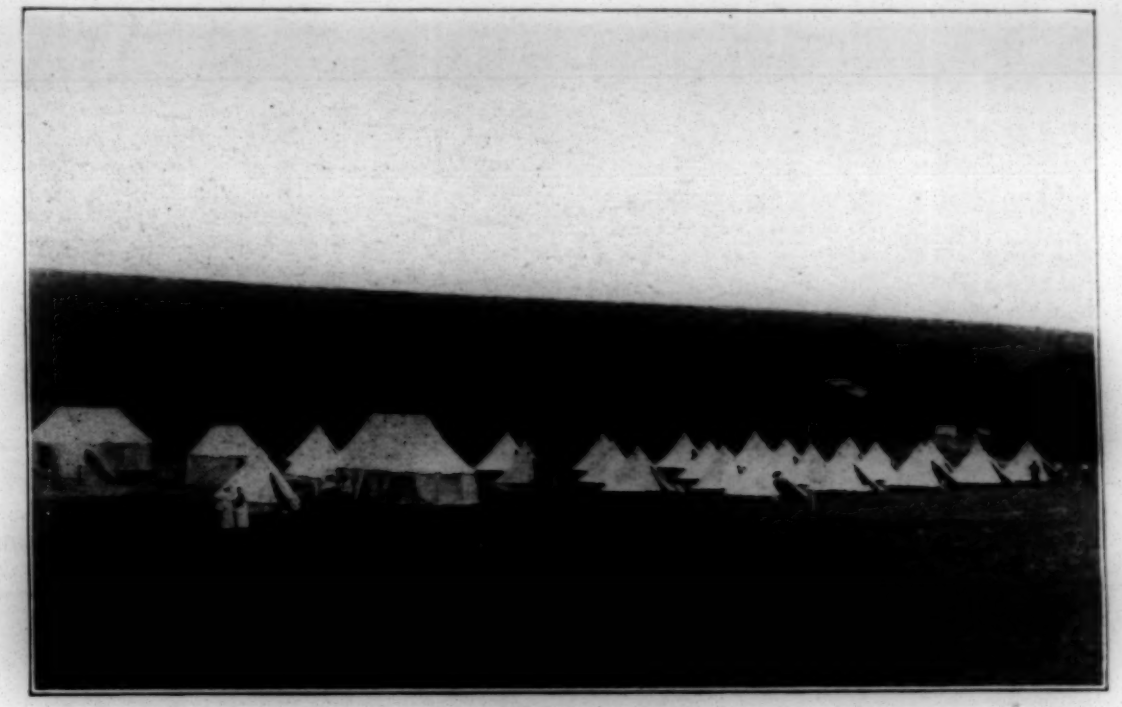
The "West of England Camp for Women," to be held near Weymouth from May 30th to June 6th, will run on much the same lines as the "Convoy Camp" held at Rottingdean last year, a photograph of which we reproduce.

The chief feature of the Suffrage Camp will be a large tent where meetings will be held. This will also be used as a dining-tent, and there will be besides a library tent and enquiry office for literature, a camp kitchen, and members' tents.

The number of members encamping will be limited to eighty, and tents will be allotted in order of application. The charge will be 25s. a week for members willing to share a tent; the charge for those desiring a single tent will be an additional 10s. per week.

The necessary furniture for each tent—*i.e.*, bedstead, mattress, pillow, two blankets, washstand, chair, and small table will be provided; but should members desire sheets and pillow-cases they must bring their own, and also towels.

The simple life will be in operation during the camp week. Members must rise at 7.0, make their own beds, and after breakfast, at 8.0, get their tents ready for inspection at 9.30. The morning will be occupied by lectures on some branch of Suffrage work, followed by a free time, when members may indulge their propensities for bathing, cycling, and the like. In the afternoon expeditions to adjacent villages for propaganda work will take place, and after the early supper at 6.45 an evening meeting will be held in the big tent. Lights out, 10.30. A waste water pit and other sanitary conveniences will be provided, and also an incinerator in which all rubbish must be burnt. A good water supply from the Weymouth water company will be laid on, so that no fear of contaminated water need deter anyone from joining the camp. Moreover, two lady doctors are to be among the members, and also a nurse, so that accidents of any sort, should such happen, can be dealt with at once.



A WOMAN'S CAMP.

The officers of the camp will comprise a Camp Superintendent, who will inspect the tents and keep an eye to the camp generally; a Financial Secretary to receive all payments; a Literature Secretary; Organisers to arrange the meetings and get speakers; and last, but by no means least, Cooks, two in number.

Weymouth is in an ideal situation, and in addition to its other attractions, is in the heart of Thomas Hardy's Wessex, being the scene of the "Trumpet Major," a novel of his best period. Quite apart, therefore, from the opportunities for helping the Cause, the holiday should prove very enjoyable.

The scheme is among the first fruits of the Active Service League, and among the speakers will be Mrs. Harley, founder of the League, Mrs. Rackham, Dr. Sloan Chesser, and Mr. Cameron Grant.

It is hoped that members will avail themselves of this opportunity to wear the Active Service League uniform, so that the green, scarlet, and white of the N.U. may become well known as the colours of the law-abiding Suffragists; but this is not compulsory. Members are allowed to dress as they like, but it is evident that jewellery, tight skirts, and fancy blouses are out of place in camp life.

This is the first time that a Suffrage Camp has been organised, and "in the fierce light that beats" upon the Suffrage cause at present many eyes will be watching the experiment. It should therefore be an example in showing what loyal co-operation and a spirit of real comradeship will do to forward the cause we have at heart. We know that these principles are at work among women, and it is ours to demonstrate them to the outer world.

Will any member of the Union wishful to join the camp communicate at once with the Camp Superintendent, Miss Thurstan, Apple Tree Cottage, Kingston, near Taunton, who will be able to supply all further details.

Miss Thurston makes the following appeal to members of the N.U.W.S.S. who would like to help with the camp, but are prevented from coming themselves:—

"I should be very grateful indeed if those interested in this bit of work for the Active Service League would send me promises of food for the camp. We are hoping to get eighty campers, so that the catering for such a large family is no light task. Promises of home-made jam, biscuits, potted meat, hams, tea, cake, vegetables, &c., will be very welcome; but I should be glad to know as long beforehand as possible what is coming, so that I can provide accordingly."

GREAT SCOTTISH DEMONSTRATION.

A Scottish National Demonstration, consisting of a procession and mass-meeting on Glasgow Green, is to take place on June 20th. All men's and women's organisations in Scotland have been invited to join, and to support our resolution, proposed by leading speakers from numerous platforms. It is hoped to have among these many of our chief National Union speakers.

This movement is the outcome of the refusal of the Prime Minister to receive the deputation from men's organisations from all over Scotland, which was organised to coincide with the Albert Hall meeting on February 14th. We appeal to all our Scottish Societies to make this the very largest and most important of all demonstrations ever held in Scotland. Handbills with the preliminary arrangements are to be had from Miss K. W. Lindsay, Glasgow Society, Women's Suffrage, 202, Hope Street, Glasgow.

ABERDEEN'S SEND-OFF TO MISS LUMSDEN.

Representative ladies and gentlemen bore testimony, at an "At Home" in the Grand Hotel on May 6th, to the services rendered to the cause of Women's Suffrage by Miss L. I. Lumsden, LL.D., who is leaving the city to take up her residence in Edinburgh. Professor J. Arthur Thomson presided, and at the commencement of the proceedings, Mrs. Black, the Vice-President, presented Miss Lumsden with a beautiful bouquet from the Aberdeen Committee. Dr. Elsie Inglis expressed sympathy with Aberdeen, and said that in Edinburgh they were looking forward with great joy to the day when Miss Lumsden would come to live amongst them.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER.

The following have consented to serve on the Committee of the Fellowship recently announced in THE COMMON CAUSE:—

The Lady Betty Balfour, Mrs. Harley, Miss Gardner, Miss Hay-Cooper, Miss Goddard.

Miss A. M. Royden has been appointed Hon. Secretary to the Fellowship. During her absence abroad, correspondence should be addressed to Mrs. Meyer (3, Cedar-court, Brent Garden Village, Finchley, London, N.), who has kindly consented to act *pro. tem.*

WARING & GILLOW

An Exhibition
of
ANTIQUES
and
WORKS of ART
On View To-day and Daily.

AMONG the interesting exhibits on the first floor of the Waring & Gillow Galleries in Oxford Street is George Washington's chest of drawers, carved in the finest Chippendale style; and three rare specimens of Chippendale furniture, including two magnificent sideboards, from the famous Castle of "Rothewas."

A series of rooms will be shown furnished with picked specimens of Tudor, William and Mary, Queen Anne, Chippendale and Sheraton furniture, each piece being authentic and thoroughly typical of its period.

A magnificent collection of tapestries, furniture, Oriental china and pictures illustrating the best periods of Art will be included in the Exhibition.

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss K. D. Courtney.
Miss C. E. Marshall (Parliamentary).
Miss Emily M. Leaf (Press).
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.
Secretary:
Miss Crookenden.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

Sunday Meetings in Hyde Park.

We should like to make another appeal for stewards for the meetings which take place every Sunday in Hyde Park. They offer an excellent opportunity for securing new "Friends of Woman's Suffrage," and anyone who will give an hour or two to this very valuable work will be warmly welcomed. Will volunteers send their names to the N.U., or, if they find themselves unexpectedly free, will they go straight to the Reformers' Tree on any Sunday afternoon at three o'clock. "Friends'" cards will be supplied to them from the platform.

Report of Literature Department.

Societies having offices or shops would do well to provide themselves with one of the charming little Suffrage shields in plaster which were shown by Miss Bousfield at the Woman's Kingdom Exhibition, and are now on sale at 3s. The design is that of the Tudor Rose, in red on a white ground, and the shield is edged with green. Societies having sales and garden fêtes might like to avail themselves of a free offer of some rolls of strip admission tickets, marked: Afternoon, 6d.; Evening, 3d.; which were used at the Exhibition. These may be had for the cost of postage, as the words "Woman's Kingdom Cottage" would need to be erased.

Press Report.

The debate in the House of Lords on Lord Selborne's Bill and its defeat, draws forth from the Liberal papers this week much interesting comment.

The *Daily Citizen*, May 7th, says:—

"The poverty of argument on the part of the Anti-suffragists, whose views were taken up by Lord Curzon, is very striking. Lord Curzon says that he opposes giving women the vote because the great mass of them do not want it. That is not true of this country, and the result of the plebiscite taken the other day by a Parisian journal shows that it is equally untrue in regard to the women of France."

The *Manchester Guardian*, May 7th:—

"What matters most at the moment is that even in the broadest and deepest existing reservoir of Conservatism there is fair reason to hope that there is now a Suffragist minority of something like one-third of the whole."

Lady Aberconway, in an interesting article in the *Daily Chronicle*, challenges Lord Curzon to prove the statements he made in the House of Lords regarding the indifference of women as citizens to their municipal duties:—

"Unless he can disprove the facts given in reply by his Grace the Bishop of London, honour demands that he, as a responsible official of the Anti-suffragist Society, should cease to circulate the unfair statements he made in the House of Lords, that he should withdraw all literature issued by his Society that takes that ground, and that he should see to it that paid speakers on his Anti-suffrage platforms no longer mislead the public in this matter."

An important letter should be noted in this week's *Labour Leader*, from Mr. W. C. Anderson, dealing with Mr. Wallhead's implication of an "Alliance" (his own word) between the National Union and the Independent Labour Party.

"Nothing has ever been suggested beyond a friendly unfettered co-operation between forces having a common rallying point in the political freedom of women. The political subjection of women is a deep insult to half the nation; it is poisoning the whole of our political life; it will more and more impede the progress of the other causes we care for; it should be ended speedily, as much in the interests of men as of women."

Election Fighting Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1913	628	10	6
Woman's Theatre, profits on amounts guaranteed:—			
Miss Alice Clark	2	17	6
Mrs. Stanton Coit	1	3	0
	£632	11	0

Women's Suffrage Mandate Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	5,308	1	10
Miss Margaret Ashton (Albert Hall Collection)	200	0	0
Cupar, Fife W.S.S.	1	0	0
	£5,509	1	10

Owing to pressure on our space we are obliged to hold over the subscriptions to the general fund.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

News from the Societies and Federations.

North and East Riding.

DRIFFIELD.—By kind permission of Mrs. Wilberfoss Hornby a successful drawing-room meeting was held at Burnholm on Friday, April 24th. Mrs. Rudkin took the chair. Miss Harris gave a splendid address. The Rev. N. M. Hewitt (Vicar of Nafferton) proposed a vote of thanks. A satisfactory collection was taken. Two new members joined, and eleven copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

FILEY.—On March 10th a successful meeting was held in the Victoria Hall, at which Mrs. Earp was the speaker, and Mrs. Harold Brown took the chair. Mrs. Tatley kindly came over from Scarborough, and performed "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky" with Miss Hankes. No new members joined at the meeting, but three joined very shortly afterwards. Three dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were disposed of.

On April 22nd another successful meeting was held, also at the Victoria Hall, Miss Helen Fraser being the speaker, and Miss Hankes taking the chair. A Suffrage playlet, written by Mr. Harold Brown, was performed, the parts being taken by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brown and Miss Ellison. One new member joined. Twenty-eight copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold

MALTON AND DISTRICT.—A members' meeting was held on April 16th. Local work was discussed; and after tea, kindly provided by Mrs. Taylor and Miss Hopkins, the latter gave an excellent address on the Mental Deficiency Bill.

On April 30th an entertainment, organised by Mrs. Forsyth, consisting of a concert, old English dances, and "How the Vote was Won," was held in the Theatre Royal, Malton. Nearly every seat was sold, and, after paying all expenses, the profits amounted to £14 10s. 6d., which will be divided equally between the Local Suffrage Society and the District Nursing Associations.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Drawing-room meeting at Mrs. Howell's, Linthorpe-road. Mrs. Edwin Gray, of York, gave an interesting address on "The Women's Movement." The promoters of the meeting were sorry that there were not more people present.

SALTBURN-BY-THE-SEA.—On March 31st a meeting was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, Brotton. Miss Margaret Robertson was the speaker. Councillor Ranson, of Boosbeck, presiding. Mrs. Aldersley also spoke a few words, making an eloquent appeal for new members. Votes of thanks were proposed by the Vicar of Brotton, seconded by Miss Leakey. Seventeen new members joined. The same number of copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. The collection was 12s. 9½d.

By kind invitation of Mrs. Alfred Hutchinson, the members of this Society spent a pleasant social evening at Manesty on Friday, April 4th. After tea and coffee had been served, Mrs. Aldersley spoke on the "Housing Problem." Her speech was very stirring, and aroused the deepest interest. An animated discussion followed, both on this subject and on the "Labour Policy of the Union."

On April 24th, in the Towers Gymnasium, Miss Helen Fraser spoke to an interested and sympathetic audience. Mrs. Levich, M.D., presided. The resolution demanding a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women was carried unanimously. Votes of thanks were proposed by Mrs. Toyn, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Three new members joined. £1 1s. was collected.

SCALBY.—A public meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, at 8 o'clock, on Thursday evening, April 23rd, addressed by Miss Helen Fraser. Lady Tancred, President, in the chair. An excellent address, and the audience, though not a large one, was very appreciative

YORK.—A public meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms on April 20th, when the chair was taken by the Rev. R. G. Pyne, M.A. The following resolution was proposed by Mrs. P. Newman, seconded by Mrs. F. Bradley, and carried unanimously: "That this meeting demands a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women." Miss Helen Fraser gave a long and interesting address. At the close three new members joined and one "Friend." A collection of £1 7s. 5d. was taken. During the month seventeen dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE have been sold through the office, 10, Museum-street.

West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation.

ORGANISATION.

During the early part of April, Miss Eskrigge spent some little time in Ashton, in Makerfield (Newton-le-Willows Division), working up a group there. Suffrage feeling there not being at present sufficiently strong to warrant the formation of an independent society. She has addressed a large Mothers' Union, and formed a small informal committee of sympathisers, and it has been decided to hold an open-air meeting soon on market day.

Some little time has been spent in Widnes and Runcorn, visiting members, in the former town, of the lapsed Society, and working in the latter with the view of forming a society there. These two neighbouring towns are on the opposite sides of the Mersey, and are given over to the manufacture of chemicals. The conditions of labour make Suffrage work somewhat uphill, but signs are not wanting that before long Suffrage feeling in both places will be concentrated in a flourishing society.

During the latter part of the month Miss Eskrigge has been working in North Wales, preparing meetings for Miss Helen Fraser. The first was held at Conway (Carnarvon Boroughs), when Mr. Leonard took the chair, and Miss Fraser spoke with splendid effect. Councillor Edwards (Lab.), from Llandudno, moved a vote of thanks, and sixteen members joined.

At Mold the meeting of members and friends was small, but five joined the group. A correspondent was elected, and a small committee was formed to arrange an open-air meeting early in June at Blaenaw Festiniog. An audience of between 250 and 300 assembled to hear Miss Fraser and the Rev. R. R. W. Hughes. Mr. Mines presided, and eight new members joined. Just before the meeting the Railway Men's Union passed the Suffrage resolutions.

THE ACTIVE SERVICE LEAGUE.

The Section Leader, Miss Eskrigge, is engaged in arranging several excellent schemes, both in the Federation itself and in co-operating with neighbouring Federations. Those who are thinking of joining the League are asked to communicate at once with their local Secretaries, or if there is no local society, direct with Miss Eskrigge at the Suffrage Office, 18, Colquitt-street, Liverpool.

FEDERATION MEETING.—This was held on April 8th in the Liverpool Suffrage Society's Office. There was good attendance. The morning session was occupied by discussion on finance and questions of policy, and the organisation of the Active Service League. After lunch, to which the delegates were entertained by Miss Rathbone at the Jamen Café, the organisers gave most interesting reports of their work, Mrs. Price White reporting on the work of the North Welsh Sub-Committee, and the appointment of a Welsh-speaking organiser was considered.

MEETINGS.

LIVERPOOL.—April 28th and 29th.—Miss H. Fraser spoke on the "Exchange Flags" during the dinner-hour. There was a good crowd both days, especially the second day, when there was some discussion after the address.

LLANDUDNO.—On April 22nd an American Sale, in aid of Federation funds, was held at the Craig-y-don Boarding House. Miss Thirza Potts, M.A., spoke, and about £6 was taken.

LLANGOLLEN.—On April 29th Miss H. Fraser addressed a meeting in the Pavilion. Though the meeting was small, it was, from point of view of enthusiasm and interest, one of the best held in Llangollen. A good proportion of the audience were men, and everyone was delighted with Miss Fraser. Mrs. John Mahler took the chair, and two new members joined.

PRESTON.—On April 4th members of the Preston and District Amateur Repertory Company gave a performance of "An Englishwoman's Home," in the Café Orient. About forty-five members and friends were present, and £2 1s. 7d. was made by charge for admission and sale of home-made sweets.

PENMAENMAWR.—The annual meeting was held on May 1st, in the Hewan Hall, when the Secretary presented the annual report, which showed an increased membership of twenty-four. After the business meeting, Miss Helen Fraser addressed a public meeting, at which Mrs. Herbert Jenkins presided.

SOUTHPORT.—On Monday, April 6th, the monthly "At Home" was held in the Girls' Club, Southport, at 4 p.m. Mrs. J. Coop was the hostess. Two new members joined, and 11s. 2½d. was taken in collection. Mrs. Buckner (U.S.A.) gave a most interesting address on the "Religiousness of Women's Suffrage." Her point of view was fresh and broad, and the leading thoughts of her speech were the great uplifting in spiritual life which the Cause will give to the country and the capacity women possess for citizenship.

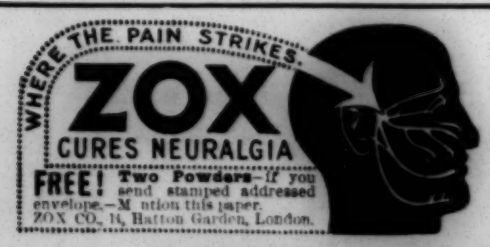
WALLASY AND WIRRAL.—Trades Union resolutions.—The Wallasy Branch of the Shop Assistants and Warehousemen passed both resolution, and the Federation of Postmen the second one.

Oxford, Berks, and Bucks Federation.

BEACONSFIELD.—On April 24th an "At Home" was held at Witheridge by the kind invitation of Mrs. Dixon Davies. Thirty members and friends were present to hear Mrs. Harley speak on the Active Service League, with the result that five or six members volunteered; Miss K. Maurice was subsequently elected leader. A collection was taken, and copies of THE COMMON CAUSE and other literature sold.

On April 29th a public debate took place at the Burnham Hall, when the Anti-suffragists as challengers, represented by Miss Gladys Pott, moved "That Women's Suffrage would be against the best interest of the Empire." The Suffragist speaker, Mrs. Leathies, was able to give excellent and interesting proofs of the value of Women's Suffrage from her wide experience of its effects in the countries which are fortunate enough to enjoy it already. Several excellent short speeches followed, and a collection was taken. On a vote being taken the Anti-suffrage motion was carried by sixty-nine to fifty-two.

BEDFORD.—A meeting was held at the Gymnasium, Lansdowne-road, on Friday, May 8th, when Miss Muriel Matters gave an interesting and inspiring address on "Women in Social and Political Evolution." The audience was enthusiastic, and expression was given to the hope that Miss Matters would shortly come again to Bedford. The chair was taken by Charles Stimson, Esq.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DUNSTABLE.—This new Society was started in February entirely by local effort, and already numbers fifty-eight members. Small private meetings were held at first, and much work was done by the members in propaganda and to raise funds for the Society, besides lending help to such deserving institutions as the local nursing and hospital funds. The first public meeting was held on May 4th, with Colonel Mercer, of Toddington Park, as Chairman. Lady Frances Balfour, who was to have spoken, was replaced by Miss Muriel Matters, the other speaker being Mr. Milner Gray. The resolution in favour of a Government measure for Women Suffrage was carried unanimously. Five new members were enrolled, and enough money raised to cover expenses. Twelve copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold. Twenty members of the Society are subscribers to THE COMMON CAUSE, and pass it on to others. There is a good working Committee under a most energetic Secretary, whose hope is to increase the membership to 100 in the coming year.

HERTS (WEST).—On April 20th Miss Mason and Miss Barrand began a fortnight's campaign in King's Langley and surrounding district, the final public meeting being held on May 5th, at the Church House, King's Langley. Miss Dora Mason and Mr. Baillie Weaver were the speakers, and Mr. William Archer kindly presided. No propaganda work had ever been done in this district before, and the large and interested audience at the public meeting testified to the splendid work done on this occasion by our organisers. Miss Mason and Miss Barrand addressed meetings in the villages of Bedmond, Abbot's Langley, Hunton Bridge, Chipperfield, King's Langley, and Leavesden; also a "dinner-hour" meeting outside Apsley Mills, a meeting of the Women's Liberal Association, and a drawing-room meeting at Mrs. William Archer's. The chair was taken on different occasions by Mrs. William Archer, Mrs. Armstrong, Mr. Ismay, and Miss Barrand. At least twenty new members have been enrolled and a large number of "F.W.S." cards signed. A collection of £4 9s. 2d. was made at the public meeting.

LUTON.—On Monday, May 4th, a large and enthusiastic meeting of over 500 people was held in the Town Hall, Luton. The Chairman was Mr. Milner Gray, prospective Liberal candidate for East Herts, a good friend. Lady Frances Balfour was to have been the speaker, but owning to the death of the Duke of Argyll she was unable to come. At the eleventh hour the Committee were most fortunate in securing the services of Miss Muriel Matters, who gave a brilliant yet weighty utterance. Mrs. Barbara McKenzie, our second speaker, served us ably too. Forty new members were enrolled, and a collection of £4 15s. was taken. The Committee have had the help of Miss B. M. Power, Organiser, N.U., to work up this meeting, and they feel that great credit is due to her for the admirable results she achieved. Members' annual meeting, May 7th, when the Officers and Committee were elected for the ensuing year. The annual report and balance-sheet were adopted, and a helpful address was given by Miss Power.

OXFORD.—April 23rd.—Public meeting in St. Edburgs Hall, Bicester. Chair, Mr. A. B. Gillett; speakers, Mrs. T. L. Stocks and Mrs. Alys Russell. The audience was not very large, but most attentive, and there was no attempt at interruption. April 24th.—Public meeting in the Corn Exchange, Witney. Chair, Mrs. Brabant; speakers, Mrs. Alys Russell and Mr. Cameron Grant. A fair audience, and very attentive. Thirteen "Friends" signed. April 25th.—Members' meeting to discuss agenda for Council meeting.

SLOUGH.—May 6th.—Public meeting in the Village Hall, Iver Heath. Chair, Mrs. Arthur Schuster, in the unavoidable absence of Miss Violet Eustace; speaker, Lady Betty Balfour. There was a large and appreciative audience. Five members joined the Slough Society, twelve "F.W.S." cards were signed, and twenty copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold, besides badges and other literature. A resolution demanding a Government measure for Women's Suffrage was carried by a large majority. The collection, which was for the Oxon, Berks, and Bucks Federation, amounted to £1 10s. 6d.

WOKINGHAM.—The Wokingham Society held its second annual meeting on April 22nd, when there was a good attendance of members in the Drill Hall. A satisfactory report and balance-sheet were read and adopted. The Society has enrolled thirty new members during the year, and there are 238 "Friends." Miss Churchill was elected as Chairman of the Society in place of Mrs. Roble Uniache, who has left East Berkshire. New rules were also adopted by the Society, and after an interesting address, given by Mrs. Hardcastle, the proceedings closed with a very hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Uniache for all her work in the Society. Ten copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold.

London Society.

QUARTERLY COUNCIL.—The first Quarterly Council under the Society's Re-organisation Scheme was held at Essex Hall, Strand, on April 30th, Miss Dimock in the Chair. The meeting proved a great success. The attendance of Branch representatives was good, and the discussion animated. The Council's first act was to pass by acclamation the following resolution:—"That this representative Council of members of the London Society for Women's Suffrage desires as its first act, to place on record its gratitude to Mrs. Fawcett for her magnificent leadership, and its firm conviction that under her wise and constitutional guidance the victory will soon be won." Among various resolutions passed for the consideration of the Executive was "That in compliance with the resolution passed at the N.U. Council in February, it be a recommendation to all branches of the London Society to start the Active Service League, particularly amongst their younger members," and an account was given by several speakers of what has already been done in this direction.

Among those who took part in debate were Miss Bloxam, Mrs. Challis, Mrs. Dale, Miss A. Dimock, Mrs. Garnett, Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, Mrs. Harrington, Mrs. Garrett Jones, Miss Murrell Marrie, Mrs. Rowland Prothero, Mrs. Rendel, Miss Rosamund Smith, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Mr. Oliver Strachey, Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, Miss Helen Ward, Dr. Wallace Chapman, Miss Walshe, and Miss White.

BALHAM.—The usual open-air meeting was held at the corner of Ormsley Road on May 1st. Stirring speeches by Miss Walshe and Mr. Gugenheim, of the Men's League, held an interested audience in spite of the coldness of the evening. Twelve "Friends" were enrolled.

BOW AND BROMLEY.—Miss Helen Ward presided at a meeting held at the Bromley Hall on April 18th, when the Rev. F. E. Birch, Vicar of Shoreditch, and Mrs. Paul Campbell spoke. The resolution was passed by a large majority. An entertainment provided by Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Miss Leslie Campbell, and Mr. Pirie was greatly appreciated, and thirty-five "Friends" were enrolled. The resolution was carried nem. con. by a large majority.

CAMBERWELL.—Miss Goddard addressed a meeting of the Workers' Union on April 27th, on "Women and Labour Unrest." The resolution was carried unanimously, and during the evening nine "Friends'" cards were signed, and five copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

CHISWICK AND BEDFORD PARK.—At the very successful entertainment held at Strand-on-the-Green on April 16th, it should be noted that six "Friends" were enrolled and sixteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

EAST DULWICH.—On April 27th, a social evening was given by Mrs. Harvey at 46, The Gardens, Peckham Rye, when Mrs. Hunter gave a most interesting address. Four new members were enrolled, and five copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold.

EALING.—A successful meeting was held at the Memorial Hall, West Ealing, on the evening of April 27th. The chair was taken by Mrs. Richards, and an excellent address was given by Mrs. Richardson. The audience was mostly composed of sympathisers, and nineteen new "Friends'" names were given in during the evening. After the address a short sketch was given, "Miss Appleyard's Awakening," the parts being taken by Miss Abrahams, Miss Harston, and Miss Elsie Jewers, and the amusing playlet was much enjoyed by the audience.

FINCHLEY.—On April 18th, at the Brent Garden Village, an excellent debate was held, at which the question of militant versus non-militant methods was discussed. The meeting was to have been a three-cornered one, but the Antis refused at the last moment to send a speaker. The non-militant view was ably upheld by Miss Clementina Black, the militant by Miss Phyllis Ayrton. After brilliant speeches from both speakers, a discussion followed, which was lively and even breezy at times, but always thoughtful and very much in earnest. Some ancient and hoary objections were dealt with by Miss Black in a witty fashion, to which the audience responded with delighted approval. Thanks are due to Mr. Chitham, who made a most excellent chairman.

A successful meeting was held at 29, Vernon Terrace, on April 23rd, by kind invitation of Mrs. Boggon. The chair was taken by Miss Alice Smith, and Mrs. Stanbury gave an inspiring address, followed by a discussion and tea. Five new members were enrolled.

GREENWICH.—A meeting of the B.W.T.A. was addressed by Miss M. Goddard on April 30th, the Rev. Clifford Hall being in the Chair. Great interest was shown, and a Suffrage speaker was invited to two other meetings.

HARROW.—Public meeting well attended, May 6th. Chair, A. R. Carlyon, Esq. Mrs. Rackham made a splendid speech. Other speakers, Rev. C. F. Russell, H. Rolleston Stables, Esq., D. Douglas White, F. N. Sargeant, Esq. Miss I. O. Ford was unavoidably absent. A resolution asking for a Government measure was carried with three dissentients. Two members joined. Seven "F.W.S." enrolled. Literature and copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. Collection. Sent resolution to Prime Minister.

N. KENSINGTON.—A most successful public meeting was held at the Bosworth Hall on April 27th. The hall was crowded, and the Actresses Franchise League gave a much appreciated performance of "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky." Mrs. Richardson made an excellent speech from the working-woman's point of view, and Councillor William Jarrett took the chair. Sixteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and sixty-eight "Friends" enrolled.

MARYLEBONE.—An open-air meeting was held at Nutford Place on May 6th, when Miss Fielden spoke, and the Rev. E. Swann took the chair.

[We regret that owing to pressure on our space we are obliged to hold over the remainder of the London Report.]

Forthcoming Meetings.

Correspondents are urgently requested to write distinctly; and to send in NOT LATER THAN THE MONDAY before the announcement is to be inserted. Notices must be addressed to the Sub-Editor.

London.

MAY 15.

Balham—Corner of Ormeley Road and Balham High Road—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Miss Fyfe 8.15

East Dulwich—Corner of North Cross Road and Lordship Lane — Open-air Meeting — Speaker, Miss Gloyn 8.0

North Lambeth—Corner of Sancroft Street and Kennington Road—Open-air Meeting—Speakers, Mr. Clifford Ewen, Miss Stoehr, Miss Walshe 8.0

MAY 18.

Greenwich—Corner of Stockwell Street and London Street—Open-air Meeting—Speakers, Miss W. Elkin, Miss M. Green

Kennington—Moffatt Institute, Esher Road, Upper Kennington Lane—Women's Meeting—Subject, "Florence Knightingale" 3.15

MAY 19.

Lambeth—Alford House, 10, Lambeth Walk—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Miss Briant—Speaker, Mrs. Richardson 3.0

Southwark—Corner of St. George's Circus and Borough Road—Open-air Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Watson 8.0

MAY 20.

Fulham—L.C.C. School, Lillie Road—Meeting and Entertainment—Speaker, Miss Helen Ward—Chair, The Rev. B. H. Berlyn—Duologue, "Broken-down Motors"—Pianist, Miss Bowers 8.30

Marylebone—Corner of East Street and Paddington Street—Open-air Meeting—Speakers Mr. David Watson, Mrs. Watson, Miss Hamilton 8.0

New Malden—Lecture Hall, Malden Road—Public Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Rackham, Mr. R. F. Cholmeley, M.A.—Chair, Mr. H. M. Ellis, J.P., S.C.C. 8.30

MAY 21.

East St. Pancras—22, Bartholomew Road, Kentish Town—Members' Meeting—Hostess, The Misses Jones—Speaker, Mrs. Savory—Suffrage play, "The Ideal Woman" 8.0

Streatham—Corner of Leigham Court Road and Streatham High Road—Open-air Meeting—Speakers, Miss Cockle, Miss Gloyn 8.0

West Islington—Corner of Cattle Market and North Road—Open-air Meeting—Speakers, Miss M. Hamilton, and others—Chair, Mr. F. W. Flear 8.0

MAY 22.

Deptford—Corner of Cetys Road and New Cross Gate—Speakers, Mrs Rogers, Miss E. Walshe

Ealing—Main Uxbridge Road—Open-air Meeting 8.0

East Dulwich—Corner of Nigel Road and Rye Lane—Open-air Meeting—Speakers, Mr. David Watson, Miss Fielden 8.0

Southwark—Corner of Tenison Street and York Road, Waterloo—Open-air Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Savory, Miss W. Elkin

The Provinces.

MAY 15.

Ashford—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Edwards 3.0

At the Pump—Open-air Meeting—Chair, Mr. Banks 7.0

Bristol—St. Paul's Lecture Hall—Professor Skemps on "William Morris" 8.0

Halifax—Schoolroom, Ebenezer Chapel—Speakers, Miss I. O. Ford, Mr. F. Stanton Barnes—Chair, the Vicar of Halifax Church 8.0

Jevington—The Schools—Speaker, Mrs. Alys Russell—Chair, the Rev. — Crake

Southampton—Art Gallery—Miss Hay Cooper on "Women in Industry" 3.30

Stockport—Mersey Square—Dinner-hour Meeting—Speakers, Mr. Warren, Mrs. Annot Robinson 1.0—2.0

Armoury Square—Speakers, Mr. Dingle, Mr. Bundock. Miss Taylor 7.30

St. Paul's Schools, Heaton Chapel—Speakers, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., and others 7.30

York—Askam Bryan—Open-air Meeting 7.0

Dring Houses Manor—Inauguration of Active service League—Tea for Leaguers, by kind invitation of Hon. Mrs. Wilkinson 5.30

MAY 16.

Birmingham—Mrs. Ring will address the Handsworth Railwaymen 7.30

Bracknell—Temperance Hall—Meeting for women only—Speaker, Mrs. Vulliamy (of the Criminal Law Amendment Committee)—Chair, Mrs. Blane 3.0

Cheltenham—Town Hall—Speaker, The Rev. Hatty Baker—Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser

Gateshead—Ely Street Schoolroom, 23, Oxford Terrace—Reading and Study Circle 7.30

Leeds—St. Simon's Infants' School Room—Kirkstall Road—Rummage Sale—Admission 3d. 3.0

Manchester—Mersey Square—Speakers, Mrs. Muter Wilson, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., The Rev. A. E. Cornibeer, Mr. Richard Robinson, Mr. A. Fenner Brockway 7.30

MAY 17.

Birmingham—Hamstead Road—Young Men's Class—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 3.0

Cheltenham—Bayshill Unitarian Church, Chapel Lane—Address by the Rev. Hatty Baker 6.30

Manchester—Labour Church—Speakers, Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A., Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., Mrs. Annot Robinson, Councillor F. Plant 7.30

MAY 18.

Birmingham—Saltley Women's Adult School—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 3.0

Bilston—Town Hall, Lecture Room—Speaker, Mrs. Osler (of Birmingham)—Chair, Mrs. Kempthorne 4.30

Croydon—34a, The Arcade, High Street—Speaker, Miss H. D. Cockle 3.30

Leeds—Albert Street, Holbeck—Women's Guild—Speaker, Miss I. O. Ford 3.0

Sevenoaks—Sweated Industries Exhibition

Manchester—339, Oxford Road—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Dr. Chisholm—Speaker, Mrs. Rackham 4.0

Y.M.C.A., Peter Street (Minor Hall)—Lightning Campaign Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Rackham, The Rev. A. E. Cornibeer 7.30

MAY 19.

Birmingham—Shop Assistants, Soho Road—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 8.30

Bristol—40, Park Street—"At Home" 3.0

East Bristol—Barrow Road—Mrs. Lloyd on "Moral Hygiene" 3.0

Grimsby—Town Hall—Miss H. Fraser on "Sweated Women and the Vote" 3.0

Old Market Place—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Miss H. Fraser 7.0

Hull—The Metropole—Meeting in the Lounge—Speaker, Miss Cicele Barclay

Margate—Open-air Meetings—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke 3.0—8.0

Wargrave—"Yeldall"—"At Home"—Hostess, Mrs. Arthur Schuster—Speakers, Mrs. Timpany, Miss V. Eustace, Miss Barrand—Chair, Professor H. H. Turner, D.S.C., LL.D., F.R.S. 3.0

Tivyford Assembly Roome—Speakers, Mrs. Timpany, Miss V. Eustace—Chair, Professor Arthur Schuster, F.R.S. 8.0

Wisbeck—Selwyn Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Ramsey—Chair, Mr. W. J. Mirrlees

MAY 20.

Birmingham—Ladywood Road, Women's School—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 8.0

Winson Green Adult School—Speaker, Miss Preston 8.0

Guilford—Elm House, Clandon—Hostess, Mrs. Mott—Meeting to discuss Women's Suffrage—Speaker, Mrs. Basset—Chair, The Rev. A. H. Fletcher—Hearty welcome to all 2.45

Leeds—Committee "At Home"—Mrs. Kitson Clarke on "Women in Local Government"—Chair, Mrs. Common—Address, 4.30—Tea at 4.0

Maidstone—Indoor Meeting—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke Afternoon.

Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke Evening.

Sutton Coldfield—"Vilette," Coleshill Road—Drawing-room Meeting, by kind permission of Mrs. Bloore 3.0

MAY 21.

Birmingham—Ward End Adult School—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 8.0

Bolton—10, Slade Street (off Newport Street)—Special Meeting for members of the Bolton Shop Assistants' Union, and their friends—Speaker, Mrs. Muter Wilson (of Manchester) 8.45

Colchester—St. Helena's Club—Monthly Members' Meeting—Discussion on "The Great Scourge and How to End It"

Manchester—Didsbury Post Office—Open-air Meeting—Speakers, Miss Grace Taylor and the Rev. E. L. Thomas 7.30

Christ Church Croft, Ashton New Road—Open-air Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Annot Robinson, Miss Emily Cox, M.A., and Mr. Crane 7.30

Rochester—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke 8.0

MAY 22.

Birmingham—20, Easy Row—Active Service League Meeting 5.0

Bristol—St. Paul's Lecture Hall—Professor Skemps on "Algernon Charles Swinburne" 8.0

Clevedon—Public Hall—Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters—Chair, Mr. J. A. H. Daniell 8.0

Scotland.

MAY 15.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home" Miss Alice Low on "The House of Lords at Last" 4.30

East Calder—Open-air Meeting (Active Service League)—Speakers, Mrs. Shaw M'Laren—Chair, Miss Bessie Barclay 7.30

MAY 16.

Dalkeith—The Fountain—Open-air Meeting (Active Service League)—Speakers, Mr. J. M'Michael, J.P., Mr. G. Nicolson, Mr. W. Johnstone 4.30

MAY 21.

Castle Douglas—Town Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Snowden. 8.0

MAY 22.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Speaker, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A 4.30

Glasgow—Bearsden Public Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Snowden 8.0

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Coming Events.

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NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. Tuesday, May 19th, at 3 p.m., New Constitutional Hall, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge. Dr. Sophia Jevons. "Industrial Schools: What they are and what they should be." Mrs. Cecil Chapman and Mrs. Kerr.

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